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ENGRAVED FOR THE BEE.



*Sir James Stewart
Denham. Bart.*

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THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

CONSISTING OF

ORIGINAL PIECES,

and

SELECTIONS FROM PERFORMANCES OF MERIT,
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC,

A Work calculated to disseminate useful Knowledge among all ranks
of people at a small expence.

BY

JAMES ANDERSON, LL.D.,

FRS FAS. S.

Honorary Member of the Society of Arts, Agriculture, &c. at Bath; of the Philosophical, and
of the Agricultural Societies in Manchester; of the Society for promoting Natural History
London; of the Academy of Arts, Sciences, and Belles Lettres, Dijon; and Correspondent
Member of the Royal Society of Agriculture, Paris; Author of several Performances.

VOLUME FIFTH.

APIS MATINE MORE MODOQUE.

Hor.



EDINBURGH:

PRINTED FOR JAMES ANDERSON, IN THE YEAR MDCCXCL.

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BRITANNIA WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER

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THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, September 14, 1791.

To the Editor of the Bee.

Sketch of the Life of the late Sir James Stewart Denham, Baronet, Author of the Principles of Political Economy, and many other valuable Writings, by ALBANICUS.

With a Portrait.

SIR,

It is with great satisfaction that I comply with your request, to accompany the portrait of Sir James Stewart's person with some account of his life and of his writings. He was the son of Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees, baronet, solicitor-general for Scotland, by Anne Dalrymple, daughter of Sir Hugh Dalrymple of North-Berwick, baronet, president of the college of justice, and was born on the 10th of October, O. S. in the year 1713, at Edinburgh.

The first rudiments of his education he received at the grammar-school of North-Berwick, which, at the time of his father's death, he quitted at the age of 14, with the reputation of being a good scholar, but without any extraordinary advancement in knowledge.

It is remarkable, that many men who have been singularly useful to society have not shown early symptoms of the greatness of their intellectual powers. A great understanding must be the offspring of happy organization in a healthy body, with co-operation of time, of circumstance, and of institution, without being forced into prematurity by excessive cultivation.

This holds with respect to the growth and perfection of every creature; and the truth appears remarkable with respect to our own species, because we are apt to mistake the flimsy attainments of artificial education for the steady and permanent foundations of progressive knowledge. From the school of North-Berwick Sir James was sent to the university of Edinburgh, where he continued until the year 1735, when he passed advocate before the Court of Session, and immediately afterwards went abroad to visit foreign countries. He was then in the twenty-third year of his age, had made himself well acquainted with the Roman law and history, and the municipal law of Scotland. He had likewise maturely studied the elements of jurisprudence, and was versed in the general, as well as the particular politics of Europe; and was bent upon applying his knowledge in the investigation of the state of men and of manners in other nations, with a view to promote the benefit of his own, and to confirm himself in the love of a free constitution of government, by contemplating the baneful effects of unlimited monarchy in Germany, Italy, and Spain, and of ridiculous attachment to a king and nobility, to war and to pernicious splendour in France. He travelled first, however, into Holland, with a view to study the constitution of the empire before he should visit Germany, and to at-

tend some of the lectures of the most eminent professors at Utrecht and Leyden, on public law and politics. From thence he passed into Germany, resided about a year in France, travelled through some part of Spain, where he had a fever, that obliged him for his perfect recovery from its effects, to go by the advice of his friends to the sea coast of the lovely province of Valencia; from thence returning he crossed the Alps, and by Turin, made the tour of Italy, where, chiefly at Rome and Florence, he resided till the beginning of the year 1740; when having spent five years on his travels, he returned to Scotland, and married the Lady Frances Wemyss, eldest daughter of the Earl of Wemyss, about two years after his return.

A few months after his marriage the representation of the county of Mid-Lothian became vacant, by the member being made a lord of trade and plantation. The candidates were the late members and Sir John Baird of Newbyth. On the day of election Mr Dundas of Arniston, one of the senators of the college of justice, was chosen preses of the meeting. He, from some prejudice against Sir James, omitted to cause his name to be called on the roll of freeholders. For this illegal use of the presiding power Sir James instituted a suit against Arniston; and resuming the gown as an advocate, pled his own cause with great energy and eloquence, with the applause of the bench, the bar, and the public. With this appearance Lord Arniston was so much moved, that he came down from the bench and pled in his own defence at the bar.

This business excited very general attention in Scotland; and had Sir James continued at the bar, he must have risen to the head of his profession in Scotland, in spite of the controuling jealousy and power of Mr. Dundas. But on his travels Sir James had contracted friendships with Lord Marischall, and other eminent men, attached to the pretensions of the royal family of Stuart, and had received flattering attentions from the Pretender

to the British throne ; the impresson arising from which, added to the irritations of his controversy with the powerful party in Scotland attached to the court, led him, unadvisedly, into connections with the movers of the late rebellion in the year 1745.

As he was by far the ablest man of their party, the Jacobites engaged him to write the Prince Regent's manifesto, and to assist in his councils. Information having been given of his participation in these affairs, he thought it prudent, on the abortion of this unhappy attempt, to leave Britain ; and by the zeal of Arniston he was excepted afterwards from the bill of indemnity, and rendered an exile from his country.

He chose France for his residence during the ten first years of his banishment, and was chiefly at Angoulesme, where he superintended the education of his son ; from thence he went to Tubingen in Suabia, for the benefit of its university, in prosecution of the same dutiful and laudable design ; but in the end of the war 56, having incurred suspicion of the Court of Versailles of affording advice to the Court of London, was seized at Spa, and kept sometime in confinement ; from which being liberated, after the accession of the present king of Great Britain, he came private, by toleration, to England, and resided at London, where he put the last hand to his System of Political Oeconomy, the copy right of which he sold to Andrew Millar ; and being permitted to dedicate this work to the king, he applied for a *noli prosequi*, which, after some malicious objections, he obtained, and had the comfort of returning to his family estate in Scotland.

Having nothing professional to do during his long residence in France, the active mind of Sir James was occupied in study. His book on the Principles of Political Oeconomy contains most of the fruits of it. He turned himself, in the intervals of leisure, to consider the resources of France, that he might the better compile that part of his great work which was to treat of revenue and

expenditure. It was by studying the language of the finances, without which nobody can ask a proper question concerning them, so as to be understood, that he attained his great purpose.

As soon as he could ask questions properly, he applied in familiar conversation to the intendants and their substitutes in the provinces where he resided, whom he found extremely desirous to learn the state of the British finances, under the branches of the land-tax, customs, excise, and other inland duties. This led him to compare the state of the two nations. The information he gave was an equivalent for the information he received; curiosity balanced curiosity, each was satisfied and instructed. The department of the intendants in France were confined to the taxes which composed the *recettes generales*, namely, the *taille*, the *capitation*, and the *twentieths*, or *vigntiemes*. All the intendants had been *Maitres des Requetes*, bred at Paris, and could not fail to have much knowledge of the general *fermes* and other branches of the revenue. He carefully noted down at all times the answers he got; and when he came to reside at Paris he obtained more ample information, both from the gentlemen of the revenue, and from persons of the parliament of Paris, who, to the number of twenty-five had been for fifteen months exiled in the province where he had so long resided at Angoulesme.

With these advantages, with much study and attention to arrangement, he was enabled to compose the sixth chapter of the fourth part of the fourth book of his *System of Political Oeconomy*, a portion of that great work well worthy the attention of those who wish to know the state of France, in respect of revenue, and are not to be satisfied with the piratical books that have been since published on political œconomy, and particularly such as regard the situation of France, with respect to debts and resources.

And since France has become lately an immense subject of interesting speculation, and that it behoves

Britain to consider well the state of that country, I shall here produce Sir James's view of the debts of France, as they stood at the peace of Paris, in the year 1763, and of the plan which was then concerted for paying the interest, and for extinguishing the capital. And I do this the rather because no account has hitherto been given of this matter by any person not interested to deceive the public either in France or in Britain. At the peace of Paris, all the debts of France then outstanding, which had been contracted previous to the war 1744, were reduced to the old debts which had been arranged in the year 1720, after the Mississippi operations. These consisted in 990 millions of livres, perpetual annuities, at two and a half *per centum*, distributed into contracts, on the town-house of Paris, and in 94 millions, at the same rate of interest, owing by the King to the company of the Indies, which was also constituted in the year 1720.

The interest of these debts, in 1762, amounted to twenty-seven million one hundred thousand livres, and, by the account between the King and the company of the Indies he was bound to pay them, annually, for the discharge of the dividends of their stocks, two millions four hundred thousand livres.

These two sums of interest amount, together, to 29,500,000 livres, which were secured upon and paid out of the king's ordinary revenue. The war, which began in 1744 and ended in 1748, involved France in new and great debts. Notwithstanding the imposition of the tenth, during this war, and all other extraordinary imposts, credit fell very low in the year 1745, until Mons. de Monmartel, the King's banker, and others, opened a bank; and, in order to supply the public demands, borrowed money from the country at large, at one-half *per cent. per month*, the capital payable on demand, to secure the circulation of their notes. This bank preserved its credit till the peace

1748, at which period a very large sum was due to it by the king.

The method fallen upon to discharge the debts contracted during this war was to impose, at the peace 1748, the first twentieths, instead of the tenth; which had then ceased, and these twentieths, with the amount of allocated taxes, amounting to fifty-two millions three hundred and thirty-eight thousand livres a-year, were supposed to be sufficient, in twelve years, to extinguish the debt.

We now come to the war 1756, which ended in the year 1763, by the peace of Paris, during which period amazing sums were levied in France every year, and an amazing sum of debt was still due at the peace. You will find, in his Political Oecon. from p. 420 onward, a very particular account of the ways and means employed during every year of this war, for raising the supplies; and in the third branch, p. 431, are stated the taxes imposed for discharging the debts contracted during the war, amounting to the annual sum of 68,690,787 livres. The whole amount of the interest of debts at the peace of Paris, the Mississippi, the war 44, and the war 56, amounted to 121,028,787 livres. The plan, therefore, at the peace, was to discharge gradually the immense debt, by keeping up the three twentieths, with all other war taxes, during the peace; but the extravagance of the court and other circumstances, rendered this plan abortive, at least in a great measure.

When France came to protect our revolted Colonies in America, these mortgaged revenues were diverted from their purpose of extinguishing capital debt to carry on the American war; and it ended in securing the independance of the United States of America, by the capture of Lord Cornwallis, and the acknowledgment of their independance by the peace 1783.

Thus, our astonishment must cease on the remembrance of the efforts France made to humble Great

Britain during the late American war, without the imposition of new taxes, while Great Britain was running the hazard of crippling both her trade and manufactures; not to speak of poor old agriculture, *so little heeded of late*, by imposing new and heavy taxes, to an unexampled amount. But France was diverting, with ill faith, her revenues from the public creditors, while the British ministers were boldly meeting the evil of war, with taxes more than sufficient to borrow the sums necessary to carry it on.

By similar means, our present minister has increased our public credit, at the expence of the people, whose patience, if it be not interrupted or destroyed by some violent exertion, may enable him and his successors, to satisfy the moneyed interest of Britain, and by the price of the funds to keep up the spirits of the people, who consider these as the barometers of public prosperity.

France, on the other hand, by diverting the fifty-five millions of annual revenue allotted to the payment of interest and capital of debt to carry on a war, have now a deficit amounting to that sum, which has rendered a revolution unavoidable. It is needless to talk to orators about finances, but such ought not to imagine that declamation will pay debts; or prevent the necessity of a change of Government, when that which exists is found unequal to the preservation of the community. This diversion of revenue in France has proved the cause of a change, however, that I trust will disappoint the croaking auguries of those monarchical gentlemen who are pleased to dignify themselves with the title of the old whigs of England.

(To be continued.)

Whether I am praised or blamed, says a Chinese sage, I make it of use to my advancement in virtue. Those who commend me, I conceive to point out the way I ought to go; those who blame me, as telling me the dangers I have run.

TRAVELLING MEMORANDUMS,

(Continued from Vol. IV. p. 296.)

OF the common people in this part of France,—the men are generally robust and well limbed,—the women neat, and well dressed. They are remarkable for what the French call “*bien coiffé*,” that is, a pretty head dress;—but neither of them have the healthy countenances and fresh complexions of our country people and villagers. You very rarely see those fine creatures we call *bonny lasses*, and *blooming lads*. The provisions for living are sufficiently plentiful here, and, in several articles, good,—particularly lamb, mutton, pigeons, hares, partridges, &c. The beef is not good,—and we are not pleased with the poultry, unless we feed them ourselves, or bring them from distant parts. They have very few cows, and no proper pasture for them, except on distant hills; so we can have little milk or butter that is tolerable.—I had very good butter of cows milk sent me from *Toulon*, three times a week, at the rate of about two shillings *per* pound.—They might have plenty and variety of excellent fish from the Mediterranean; but their native fishers are miserably deficient, both in skill and industry.—During every spring season the Genoese carry on a profitable and very considerable trade of fishing on this coast, in the best manner,—and even supply the French markets: thus those republicans, with superior enterprise and industry, excited and supported by wise encouragements and regulations of the state, like the Dutch on our coasts, divert to themselves those sources of plenty and wealth which naturally belong to our own people. Men interested in the people’s prosperity, and intelligent in the means to promote it govern republics. Kings and courtiers are chiefly studious of their own security, and for that they rely on the force of merce-

nary armies, and the influence of mercenary priests. A Frederick rarely, very rarely exists; a Monarch who had capacity to conceive, and virtue to practice the golden rule of government,—*That the people's prosperity is the only sure foundation of a monarch's honour and interest.*

The horse I purchased at *Aix* serves me well;—for amusement, exercise, change of air, I frequently make jaunts upon him as far as *Toulon*, I there became acquainted with a *Monf. Caffarilli*, lieutenant of a king's ship; from his company and conversation I have derived much pleasure and information.—I also had the good fortune here to be further acquainted with the celebrated *Abbé Raynal*.—At the age of seventy-four, he has, for some years, lived with an extraordinary abstinence of diet.—He drinks no fermented liquors, and subsists altogether on cow's milk and bread; by this regimen he enjoys perfect health and high spirits; he talks incessantly, but is constantly entertaining, often instructive; and in conversation he expresses himself with the same propriety and perspicuity as he does in his writings.

The many good offices of my banker *Frances Grenet*, and other gentlemen of this country, confirm an opinion I have formed of the French character in general, that they are not merely polite, but really friendly and beneficent.—A *Monf. Bouffie*, at *Hyerès*, is remarkable for obliging attention to strangers, especially the British.—He has merited my regard by numberless good offices.—I found him engaged in a project of building a new and commodious hotel, in an excellent situation;—I discovered that his finances were rather deficient, and I granted some aid;—I hope it shall prosper.

During my residence at *Hyerès* I have amused myself very agreeably, and effectually, in making collections of natural curiosities; shells and other maritime bodies, fossils, spars, and minerals. In this favourite object I was remarkably assisted by my old Scottish servant

James;—he discovers a natural taste, which excites an extraordinary keenness and industry in his searches. As often as he could be spared he traversed the coasts and hills, far and near, returning always with stores,—many of them rare or pretty. Some of my French acquaintances, observing his merit in this and other singularities, joined to a very unpolished appearance, called him *Le sage sauvage*,—the wise Savage. In the course of these excursions he met with various adventures, some of them odd, and ludicrous enough. I should relate them at full length, were I disposed to imitate the example of minute travellers, who write for the fame and profit of ample publications. I was made acquainted with a *Pere Urban*, a dominican priest of the convent of St. Pierre, at Toulon; he had collected a small cabinet of natural history, which was for sale, I purchased the most part of it. After this commerce with him, he appeared to be attached to me, made me repeated visits here, and assisted me in other purchases. I had some proofs of his kindness, and some of his craft. Upon the whole, however, we were mutually well pleased. He amused me, and I believe I paid him in a manner sufficiently liberal and comfortable. I must again make honourable mention of a barber.—He served me at this place,—his name is *Mons. Arena*;—I set it down for recollection, if ever I should return here, and that I may recommend him to others, for he is an excellent honest fellow. He was an amateur of natural history; he sometimes volunteered as a guide to James, and otherwise materially assisted me;—at length he suggested a shrewd experiment, which I shall try in other retired situations; though it may seem whimsical it succeeded well. He published a proclamation by the common cryer in the village, and neighbourhood, that a foreign gentleman, whose place of residence he expressed, was willing to pay reasonably for all articles of natural history, which were partly specified. I had daily, and very amusing levees, chiefly of

failors and fishers, or their widows and kindred, from whom I purchased, at moderate rates, with God's blessing into the bargain, many curious articles, from the East and West Indies, as well as the Mediterranean coast and from the mines and quarries of this country.—In the course of my dealings for collecting articles of natural history I met with a very innocent adventure, which both entertained and interested me much.—Miss F——h, a young lady of the British party here, equally amiable by elegance of person and manners, recommended to my attention a Spanish Lady of singular fortune and character, whom she countenanced and patronised from the purest dispositions of a good heart. This Spanish lady's name is Madame Raquier, now past sixty years of age; when young and handsome she was married to a Frenchman, who had a good land estate in this country, and carried on trade for many years, at Cadiz, with every appearance of success and growing affluence; they had no child. Having settled his land estate on a relation who lives at Toulon, in trust wholly for behoof of this lady, his wife, he died about ten years ago. There is reason to doubt if this trust was faithfully administered; however that may be, the fact is, that all his effects in Spain were seized by his creditors there, and the administrator in this country having sold the land estate, rendered an account, that all was exhausted by debts and expences of management;—so that, when the lady arrived here, in full expectation of an easy fortune, she found herself destitute even of common necessities, in a country where she was entirely a stranger. A priest, who was chaplain to her family, when in opulence, had, about this time been settled in a small living near *Hyerès*;—with him she has ever since been entertained. She works diligently at fine laces, and thereby contributes to their support. She has made his little habitation the most exquisitely elegant cottage, I believe, in the world,—I have repeatedly visited it with fresh admir-

ation. She has born this severe and unexpected reverse of fortune, with such firmness of mind and chearful spirit, that she is highly respected, and commonly called *la femme forte*, or *the brave woman*. I found it no easy matter to afford her a moderate relief, without offending her delicacy. She obstinately declined to receive any thing as a present, or charity; but by Miss F——s prudent and humane mediation, I purchased from her some choice articles of natural history, even below an adequate price. I wish to give her some farther supply, but I doubt it is impracticable; and so does Miss F——h. I have frequently conversed with her;—her sense and singular pleasantry quite charmed me. A good poet might make her, at least a match for the *man of Ross*; an excellent character, but too artificially drawn by Pope.

No miser can accumulate pelf with more avidity than I do these articles of natural history.—I have accepted, without any scruple or ceremony, many presents from persons of condition,—particularly from the Duchess of *Saxe Gotha*, and Lady D——s; who have promised to give me more; from a French bishop, occasionally here, a very respectable and pleasant man; from *Madame Bourgaire*, my friend, Mr *Jaumes*, and *Monsr. Roberts*, a very worthy curate here, who has a good living; from my countrymen Mr N——t; honest Mr F——h, &c. On my transactions in natural history I make this remark, that if money misers understood their own interest rightly, they would act liberally,—whereby the rich may be induced to make them presents, and the poor to give them penneyworths.

I am in the course of perusing *Mollier's* admirable comedies:—I have just read the *Miser*. In a collection of works by an author of original genius, we are puzzled to form our judgment, and decide for ourselves this question—which is the best piece or *chef d'œuvres*. True genius resembles the power of eloquence,—in which the last speaker is predominant. When I have

just read one of Shakespear's capital plays, I think it his best, till I read another: at this moment I think the *Aquaro* is Mollier's best comedy;—I may alter my opinion without abating my estimation of it, when I successively peruse the *Tartuffe*, and the *Misanthrope*, &c.—We may observe in real life, that if the most notorious miser had sense enough to avoid certain pitiful, trifling, and contemptible savings, he might be allowed to merit the character of a wise and cautious man.—Mollier's miser would pass for a rational good old man, prudently restraining the excesses of his inconsiderate and unexperienced children.—If you retrench those gross and ridiculous fooleries, which indeed are inseparable from the nature of avarice.—His *lending*, in place of *giving* a good day, seems *outré*; but he is truly natural and comic, when he gives his steward directions about the entertainment. “Plenty of soup maigre to cloy their stomachs; and provide what may serve a company of eight, which will be sufficient for twelve or fourteen.”

Harpagon's ludicrous agitations on discovery of the robbery have a remarkable and very curious resemblance to Shakespear's Shylock on a familiar occasion. It is pleasant to mark such comparisons of genius in different countries. Here the similitude is delightfully striking.

Hyerès, March 20, 1787. List of French books, occasionally recommended by intelligent friends here:—*Montaigne*—Voltaire's edition of *Corneille*,—*Racine*,—*Crebillon*—*Molliere*—*Boiteau*—*Dictionnaire raisonne universel d'Histoire naturelle*, par *Monf. Valmont*, seven volumes—*Voyage d'un amateur des arts*,—*Elemens de l'histoire de France*, 3 vols. par l'*Abbé Milot*—*Memoires de chimie*, par *Monf. Sage*—*Histoire d'Espagne*, par *Mariana*—*Histoire de Henri quatre*, par *Perefixe*.—*Tableau de Paris*, many vols.—*Guide des amateurs et des etrangers voyageurs a Paris*—*Schruchzer's* natural history of Switzerland.—*Monf. Jaume* promises to give me a list of the most esteemed memoirs and translations in the French language.

March 23. This day I was joined by my nephew, —an excellent companion—and we immediately set out on our return northward. In passing at Toulon we visited Mr. and Mrs. C—k, who, for some time, were very agreeable members of our British party at Hyeres;—and I finally settled my commerce with the priest.

March 30, 1787. Marseilles;—we pass some days very agreeably here. My stores of natural history collected in those parts are now carefully packed in fifteen or sixteen cases, and shipped, by my banker, for London *. I also revisited Monsi. Colet's fine cabinet, with a letter of recommendation from Madam Bour-gare. I shall ever warmly remember his kindness, and wish for any proper occasion of a grateful return. He presented to me a casket, containing a select, though small collection of curious and rare articles in natural history;—and on the footing of a liberal and friendly commerce, I received from him a list of articles which he desired to have from different parts of Great Britain. Most unhappily I have mislaid this list, and earnestly wish, by the mediation of some obliging and good natured traveller, to have it replaced, that I may be enabled to pay what I may properly call a debt of honour. For my own recollection, and to inform other curious travellers, I set down that during this short stop at Marseilles I had some useful commerce with a new acquaintance, a fair dealer in natural history;—his name and address is—" *Th. Ville, au coin de la carriere, vers le port a Marseilles.*

* It is certainly one, and a remarkable proof, (though in an instance of little moment), of the established regularity and safety of commerce, that, though I purchased numberless articles of natural history, through the whole course of my extensive travels, and left them in parcels to the charge of many different merchants, to be sent by various channels to different ports in Britain, I have suffered no loss or embarrassment worthy of mention; almost all now are in my possession.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

MY translations of the Letters to *Capito* and *Helvidius Priscus* have been so well received by your readers that I meditate the publication of the originals, together with the whole of the volume in which they are contained.

Doubts, I find, are entertained of their authenticity, which will be removed by putting the learned in possession of the manuscript, by depositing it in the British Museum, and printing a copy of it, without deviation from the text. Meantime I send you a translation of an Epistle from *Quintus* to his brother *Marcus Cicero*, which bears internal evidence of its being one of those written from the Camp in Britain, to which Tully refers in his 17. of the 4. b. to Atticus, and the 3. Ad. *Quintum fratrem*, 1. § 7. I am Sir, with regard,

your humble Servant.

A. B.

You are desirous, my excellent brother, that I should give you a minute account of the progress of our affairs in this island, and of my own particular situation; but Cæsar being now returned to the army in Gaul, and the weight of military affairs having fallen on my shoulders, hardly can I find sufficient leisure to write, or opportunity to enquire concerning these things that might amuse you, as I did heretofore, when, like Trebatius, I considered myself rather as a guest and companion, than an associate in the command and authority of the emperor. Indeed so little occasion has there been for civil arrangements in the communities that have been brought under the Roman dominion by Cæsar, that Trebatius enjoys his books and his social

pleasures in Gaul, while I am looking forward anxiously for the return of a messenger from the Emperor, that I may prepare the troops for marching to the shore, and the reception of hostages for the preservation of fidelity, before our re-embarkation and return to the continent.

Few are the objects, my dear brother, in this savage island, that can contribute to the amusement of a polite scholar, but many to excite the attention and contemplation of a philosopher. Here you behold rude Nature in her primitive and awfully interesting forms and varieties, and mankind, as it were, in its cradle, beginning only to lisp the feeble accents of the social language that will call hereafter for laws and for police to unite them happily with the mistresses and patronesses of nations.

To these objects, therefore, I have turned the whole of my attention during my separation from Cæsar; having had the choice of my own quarters, and with a strong guard, and with gifts to obviate the danger of devious excursions, enquired diligently into the nature of the soil, and situation, and manners, of the country. Nor have I been neglectful of examining the religion and language of the people, which differ less than you would imagine from those of our ancestors, as related in the Sybilline Tables, and yet to be traced in the language and manners of Magna Græcia, and the other extreme provinces of Italy.

The temples of the Britains are raised in the depths of woods, constructed in a circular form, with obelisks of stone, over which are imposts of the same material, and all of huge dimensions, untouched by the chissel.

One of these I saw, while it was erecting by the rude and unskilful hands of the natives, as a peace-offering to their Grianus, or Apollo, to mediate the good offices of Cæsar.

The huge stones of which it was composed lay scattered by the hand of Nature on the plain; these, with

myriads, of the votaries of the god, to afford their labour, the high priest, who directed the operations, caused to be rolled up upon inclined planes of solid earth, which were formed from the excavation of trenches, until they were brought to a height equal to their own altitude; then pits having been dug, they were launched from the terrace, and sunk so as to stand perpendicularly at due and equal distances in the circle, and over them were placed others horizontally; and after having compleated one circle they form another that is concentric, at some distance, and towards the extremity of the area of the inner circle, they place a huge stone for the performance of their religious rites. When the sun enters the sign of Cancer is their great festival of the god: and on all the high mountains and eminences of the country they light fires at the approach of that day, and make their wives, their children, and their cattle, to pass through the fire in honour of the deity. Deep and profound is the silence of the multitude during this ceremony, until the appearance of the sun above the horizon, when, with loud and continued exclamations, and songs of joy, they hail the utmost exaltation of that transcendant luminary, as the supreme triumph of the god of their adoration.

From the East, they say, they drew their original; and their religion actually resembles that of the Hyperborean nations. In their temples, surrounded by venerable and deep forests, and adjoining to pools of water, they annually worship, (by washing in the living streams) a rude image, representative of the mother of the gods, and giver of fruitful seasons. This goddess they call Andatè, or Anaitè, and her temples are most sacred. By her they swear, to her they offer sacrifices, and by her name I caused them to vow fidelity to the commonwealth. Into ten tribes they are divided in their respective communities; and to the king, who is also king of the sacred things, as well as supreme governor, is allotted the tenth of all the fruits of the

earth, from which he maintains the government and the priests, with all the costly apparatus of their religious ceremonies, their sacrifices, and their processions. Other contributions to the king or to the priests they know not, nor will they suffer, except on the marriages of the sons and daughters of their chiefs *.

Their two great divinities, which, by different names and rites they diligently worship, are the heavens and the earth †.

Persons who arrogate to themselves the knowledge of future events they have, and these, covered with goats skins, and lying prostrate on the ground, utter strange, confused oracles, which, when refused, they are extorted by blows given by rods, or by the pizzles of bulls, prepared for the purpose, until they become propitious to the votaries.

Concerning the language I can only say that it resembles that of Gaul, with a mixture of what has been infused by mariners, who have for ages frequented the shores in search of the precious metals; and that I have, by the aid of my interpreters, discovered a great many words that exactly resemble the ancient dialects of Italy, of which I give you the following, without pretending to shape the barbarous sounds of their language to a Roman ear; nor, as they are unacquainted with the art of writing, to make them intelligible to the eye.

* This origin and intention of tythes is highly interesting and curious, and deserves to be maturely weighed by ecclesiastical antiquaries. If ever the necessities of modern times should render a change unavoidable in the disposal of the revenues of the church of England, I beg leave to observe, that without sacrilege, the venerable clergy of England might, upon recurring to their ancient and indefeasible right of tythes, be obliged to maintain the king and the civil government, to the infinite ease and comfort of the people, and glory of the church.

† “*Dua numina quæ precipue Colunt, Terram et Cælum variis nominibus et ritibus diversis, ubique reperimus,*” &c.

<i>A River,</i>	<i>A Horse.</i>
<i>A Fiſh,</i>	<i>A Bull,</i>
<i>A Whale</i>	<i>Dignity,</i>
<i>A Man,</i>	<i>Height,</i>

And many others, which haſte will not permit me to mention in this Letter. May the gods enable me to beſtow my time better than in unfolding the barbarous manners of a barbarous people, and reſtore me quickly to the ſeats of philoſophy and empire. Farewell, my Marcus; take care of your health, and may your life long remain for the ſafety of the commonwealth.

XV of the Kalends of September.

* *Ad Fines cum Exercitu.*

To the Editor of the Bee.

OBSERVATIONS ON FROISSART.

SIR,

I AM highly pleaſed, (and I am ſure ſo will every friend to literature in Europe,) with the communication of the particulars relating to Mr. Johnes's valuable Books and MSS. and I invite you in the name of many reſpectable readers of your Miſcellany, to be free and frequent in the publication of ſuch notices, becauſe they will lead to the compoſition of new hiſtorical works that will contain new views of human nature, to enrich philoſophy and politics, and not merely to fascinate the ear or the eye with the tinsel of fine periods, or the melody of high ſounding antithesis. When Lord Auchinleck was firſt told of Dr Robertſon's hiſtory of Charles the Fifth being publiſhed, "Well, (ſaid he), I fancy it "will be nothing but a new toot upon ane auld horn." Now, really, Mr Editor, notwithſtanding Lord Auchinleck's perſiſſage upon horns, I ſhould like to take a toot upon honeſt Froiſſart's auld horn, without attempting any new toot of my own, and hope the repeated expreſ-

sion of a general desire to see that book in a genteel English dress, will produce an edition of him, for which, if a subscription be necessary, I have no doubt of its being successful. Hayley's character of him might, with great propriety, be placed in the front of a new translation.

" Here Courtesy, with generous Valour join'd,
 " Fair twins of Chivalry! rejoice to find
 " A faithful Chronicler in plain Froissart;
 " As rich in honesty as void of art.
 " As the young peasant, led by spirits keen
 " To some great city's gay and gorgeous scene,
 " Returning with increase of proud delight,
 " Dwells on the various splendour of the sight;
 " And gives his tale, tho' told in terms uncouth,
 " The charm of Nature, and the force of Truth.
 " Tho' rude, engaging; such thy simple page
 " Seems, O Froissart! to this enlightened age.
 " Proud of their spirit, in thy writings shown,
 " Fair Faith and Honour mark thee for their own;
 " Tho' oft the dupe of those delusive times,
 " Thy genius, fostered with romantic rhymes.
 " Appears to play the legendary bard,
 " And trespass on the truth it meant to guard.
 " Still shall thy name, with lasting glory, stand
 " High on the list of that advent'rous band;
 " Who, bidding History speak a modern tongue,
 " From her cramp'd hand the Monkish fetters flung,
 " While yet depress'd in Gothic night she lay,
 " Nor saw th' approaching dawn of Attic day."

I am, Sir, with regard,

HISTORIOPHILOS.

To the Editor of the Bee.

ON THE NEW BRIDEWELL.

SIR,

BY a clause in the lately obtained Bridewell-Act for this county and city, it is enacted, That towards the annual expence of that institution, there shall be levied 1s. on each house valued at 5l. and upwards, and 1s. on each plowgate of land.

By a pamphlet lately published relating to the freeholders in Scotland, it appears, that in this county the number of freeholders is 85. Supposing each of them to possess a house liable to the above tax, the sum, in whole, that can be levied upon the freeholders of Mid-Lothian for the support of the Bridewell, will be annually *Four Pounds Five Shillings Sterling*.

By a state of the public road funds, printed about four years ago, it appears that the number of plowgates in this county is 1170.

Thus the *tenants*, or proprietors in the capacity of *farmers*, will have to pay for the same purpose 58l. 10s. that is, *nearly fourteen times more than the lairds*.

I would be glad to know on what principle of equity the above assessment is thus laid on?

When the first turnpike road assessment was instituted in this county, the gentry of that age had the modesty to get themselves exempted from its influence. The gentry of the present day, to their honour be it spoken, act with more magnanimity and generosity; they disdain to lay the *whole* burden on their *tenants*, they have, on the contrary, with much liberality, so contrived this business of the Bridewell, that from an annual revenue of above 100,000l. Sterling, they are to pay collectively the very considerable sum of *Four Pounds and Five Shillings per Annum*!

Mid-Lothian,

Aug. 10, 1791.

A TENANT.

To the Editor of the Bee.

On the Benefits to be derived from the general Diffusion of Knowledge.

SIR,

I REJOICE to find your Literary Journal in so good a train. I hope nothing will now obstruct this useful

work. We have lived to see some part of the value of the general diffusion of knowledge. Your sons will still see more extensively its happy effects. Reason and Truth are the natural rulers of mankind, when the obstructions between their throne and their subjects are fairly removed. Despotism and Vice, their natural enemies, will flee before them, and Europe become a garden peopled with Adams and Eves, before their fall. I have never relished the doctrine of moral evil being a necessary part of the system. What many individuals avoid, may be avoided by all. We shall by and by get a hunting of Happiness instead of Riches, and see people esteemed for the tranquillity of their minds instead of the extent of their possessions. I look also for another beneficial effect from the improvement of the moral system. That the highest and lowest orders of the state will learn to adapt their stile of living so exactly to their circumstances as to live happily, and within bounds. I mention the extremes, because it is precisely these who resemble each other the most in the distress of their circumstances, it being almost as difficult to manage a great as a little income. How rarely, and how imperfectly do we find the art of œconomics treated amidst all our publications, though a favourite *topic* among the ancients, and leading to infinitely more important consequences in common life than many of the higher branches of philosophy. Gunnery tells us how to point cannon of all calibers; œconomics would teach us also the range of our fortunes, what could, and what could not be attained by them. Adam Smith shews clearly the wealth of nations depends upon the œconomy of individuals; and that a state must grow rich when each of its inhabitants saves annually something of his income. I find I have got on a topic that it would require a volume to unfold all my ideas upon, or a month to compress them into the size of a letter. I would have plans of houses, lists of servants, wines and meats, cloaths and equi-

page for every stage of fortune, from 50000l. to the lowest income of the state, calculations of expence, mathematical demonstrations to shew a man on looking at the stile of his house, and list of his servants, that he must be ruined; to foretell the precise moment, to prescribe the certain remedy. Something very popular, and quite new, might be done on this subject by Genius and Industry. A book of this sort would be as much bought, and perhaps now a days more read than the bible. Give us something of this sort when you can find leisure for it in the Bee.

A. B. T.

Detached Observations.

THE presence of those whom we have injured, and who have generously pardoned us, is in almost all cases disagreeable, even where we do not hate them; because it brings back the recollection of a fault committed, and of a benefit received;—a fault which has become the more humiliating for us by the benefit which has succeeded it. We see in them our benefactor, and the witness of our injustice. We see them placed so much above ourselves, that the thought is too humiliating for human nature not to prove extremely unpleasant. We never ought to offend any person; because that is unjust, and because the offence is a source of reciprocal enmities. Sometimes we break with those whom we have offended, without their breaking with us; we hate them without their ceasing to love us. There are many occasions when it would not be very unreasonable in us say, *I conjure you to forget and to pardon me for the injury you have done me.*

It is a mark of a great mind to be able cordially to esteem, and have a sincere friendship for the person whom we have once considerably injured. Such a mind alone can comprehend the possibility of sincerely forgiving the offence, and of course be satisfied that the marks of friendship bestowed are not effaced.

One of the greatest beauties Scotland ever produced happened to live in Edinburgh some years ago, opposite to a gentleman, who was fully sensible of her charms. The illusion was mutual, but contrary to the opinion of their parents. The Lady used to open her window shutters, and placed the candle to be seen by the lover. He hastened with the eagerness of youth and impatience; but unfortunately the first signal was disconcerted by the unexpected visit of the maiden aunt, which occasioned the taper to be put out. The Verses below were sent the next day by a Gady.

VERSES to a Lady by her Lover, who thought she jilted him.

WHEN Hero from the watch tow'r head
 Her taper light display'd;
 With eager haste Leander sped,
 And fought his beauteous maid.
 But soon, alas! black storms arise,
 White waves on high are tost;
 By ruffian winds the taper dies,
 And poor Leander's lost.
 A piteous tale! unhappy youth!
 How cruel was thy fate!
 Who for thy constancy and truth
 A watery grave didst meet.
 Wretched indeed! but think, dear maid,
 Who dost these lines peruse,
 Hero her taper ne'er display'd,
 Leander to refuse.

The Honey Moon. A Song.

WHEN maidens enter into life,
 And blushing Miss becomes the wife,
 The female heart's in tune;
 When love beat's high, and reason's hid,
 And dearie does whate'er he's bid,
 Then springs the Honey Moon.

When trinkets, rings, and such *bijoux*,
 Are bought to please the lovely spouse ;
 And jaunts are made to town ;
 When smiles bedeck the pleasing face,
 The new caught husband shines with grace,
 More bright the Honey Moon.

When all is mutual, all is love,
 The maid a turtle or a dove ;
 And morning peeps too soon :
 The youthful pair increase in charms,
 And breathe love in each other's arms,
 Full orb'd the Honey Moon.

When reason through a cloud is seen,
 And business wakens from a dream,
 And August thinks on June ;
 When family matters call for aid,
 The wife sits easy on the maid,
 And wanes the Honey Moon.

When orders come from lips so sweet,
 And, money, money, they repeat,
 And mistress dare presume,
 The fetter'd lover feels his chains,
 And struggles but t' encrease his pains,
 Then droops the Honey Moon.

When, " Sir you must come in at three,
 " There's company to dine with me,"
 And husband's brows fall down ;
 Then madam rules with iron rod,
 And purse and patience feels the load,
 Then sets the Honey Moon.

Let reason's planet then be bright,
 'Twill gild the lonely winter's night
 With friendship's cheery bloom :
 No family broils will cry aloud ;
 Good nature's sun peeps through the cloud,
 Nor changes like the Moon.

EXPERIENCE.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

FRANKLY acknowledging the decided superiority of the English nation over the Scots ever since the age of Buchanan, in erudition, in classical taste, and in all the departments of laborious investigation, I beg leave, through the medium of your respectable Miscellany, to recommend to the attention of that surpassing and generous nation, the undertaking of Dr Tytler, of Brechin, to put the works of Callimachus in an English dress, with the taste and spirit of the original, and to exhibit the first specimen of so great a classical work attempted in Scotland, of which I take the liberty of communicating two of the Epigrams, which have been handed to me by the author. I am, Sir, &c.

ALBANICUS.

EPIGRAM XXII. BEING CALLIMACHUS'S OWN EPITAPH.

WHOE'ER with hallow'd feet approaches near,
Behold Callimachus lies buried here.
I drew my birth from fam'd Cyrene's shore,
And the same name my son and father bore.
My warlike fire, in arms, much glory won,
But brighter trophies grac'd his favour'd son;
Lov'd by the tuneful nine he sweetly sung,
And stopt the venom of th' invidious tongue:
For whom the Muse beholds, with fav'ring eyes,
In early youth, shall ne'er in age despise.

EPIGRAM XXIV.

Cleombrotus, high on a rock
Above Ambracia stood,
Bade Sol adieu, and as he spoke
Plung'd headlong in the flood.
From no mischance the leap he took,
But fought the realms beneath;
Because he read in Plato's book
That souls live after death.

Intelligence concerning Arts.

SILK REARING IN SCOTLAND.

IT is a true observation, that "example is more powerful than precept," and in regard to arts and improvements, there are unanswerable reasons may be urged why it ought ever to be adhered to as an invariable rule of conduct. On this principle, I cannot help congratulating the public in being now able to announce, that I have now in my possession—a *swatch** of the first web of silk that ever was made in Britain†, of materials reared entirely in this country.—Mr Andrew Wright of Paisley has the merit of having set the example of the practicability of this undertaking; as appears by the following letter. When this shall become a great national object of attention, which it undoubtedly will be in time, I hope the name of this patriotic gentleman will be celebrated, as that of Beukelszoon in the Netherlands, whose tomb was visited by the Great Emperor Charles V. as one of the principal benefactors of his country, by having taught his subjects the

* I am aware I here make use of a term, that may perhaps be accounted Scotch, that is wearing out of fashion, I think, very improperly. One, who affected to write fine language, would have said a *pattern*; but a *pattern* properly means a thing that is exhibited for the sake of being imitated by a workman: it could not properly have been used in this sense here, as it was not sent to me for that purpose. Why should we confound words? we say a *sample* of grain, and a *swatch* of cloth, both implying that a small portion is taken from a larger, to show what quality it is of. I shall not be surpris'd to see some affected person say an *example* of grain.—Why banish words from the language that contain distinct ideas? A man would be reckoned an ignoramus, who should now make use of the word *bundle*. He must forsooth say *parcel*, although that word has a distinct and appropriated meaning, different from *bundle*.

† I say *Britain*; for although the Society of Arts in the Strand have, for several years past, advertised a considerable premium for rearing silk in *England*, I have not yet heard that ever they have had any of it made into a *web*.

art of curing herrings, which had in the course of ages become a source of great wealth and prosperity to the nation.

Nor let those who have not turned their attention to matters of this nature, look upon this enterprize with any eye of despondence as a distant event :—improvements, when once begun upon rational foundations, advance with immense rapidity. It is not above fifteen or sixteen years, since the writer of this article found a man, who, with much labour and ingenuity, discovered a method of weaving a small web entirely of cotton, so fine as to be fit for being used as cravats.—This was thought before that to be impossible, and it was looked upon as a great curiosity—yet, so rapid has the improvement in this respect been, that British muslins are now brought into competition with the finest that have been made in India ; and it has become a great and growing manufacture, and an object of immense national importance. The late King of Prussia, I have already remarked, began to introduce the rearing of silk in his dominions, about, as nearly as I can recollect, the year 1760, and he had the satisfaction to live to see that it had become a very great national object.—His Prime Minister, *Count Hertzberg*, gives the following account of it in the year 1785 : “ The silk manufactures in Prussia, says he, employ more than 5000 persons, who manufacture to the value of above two millions, and who fabricated last year at *Berlin*, 1,200,250 ells of stuffs, and 400,000 ells of gauze : they employed above 700,000 pounds of raw silk, of which a sixth part is already the produce of the country. The produce of silk in the year 1784 in the Prussian estates, including Silesia, was 13,432 l. of which the great part is very fine, and equal to that of France and the ordinary silks of Italy.

“ What is said above, only comprehends the manufactures of *Berlin* and the *Marche* : we have, besides these, at *Cresfeldt*, in the principality of *Meurs* on the Rhine, the greatest and the finest silk manufacture perhaps in Europe. This establishment was effected by the able and worthy merchants the *Messrs Layens* at their own expence—they there manufacture annually to the value of several millions of *ecus* of the best stuffs, which they dispose of to the north, and even to the *Seraglio* of Constantinople.—This manufacture, in which is employed five thousand workmen, has given to the city of *Cresfeldt*, formerly inconsiderable, a population and neatness which

may be compared in that respect to some of the towns in Holland."

What has been done elsewhere may be done here?—Perseverance and industry overcome every obstacle, except bad laws, which inevitably prove the destruction of industry and every great enterprise. The following letter clearly proves, that the attempt is not only feasible in Theory, but can easily be carried into Practice.

*To James Anderson, LL. D. Editor of the Bee,
Edinburgh.*

SIR,

THIS small piece of crape silk gauze*, I made from the silk of worms of my own rearing in Paisley. From the cloth, you will see that it is of an excellent quality†, and will stand a comparison with any imported from Italy. Being the first piece of silk gauze made from the production of Scotland, I thought that it would not be an unacceptable present to you, who, from your essays on this subject, appear to be a lover of your native country.

Although I have made a small quantity of silk each year for several years past, for the amusement of a leisure hour, I am not able to say any thing new on the subject. As the nature of my business requires all my attention and most of my time, I have not got the various experiments made that I intended. I only observe that this climate agrees very well with the silk worms ‡; for of the few that I reared this year, I did not lose above five or six per 100 by death; also the young mulberry trees I planted about three or four years since, are thriving exceeding well.—Upon the whole, I am of opinion,

* In order that you may judge of the quality of the silk, I have sent the gauze in the same state that such kinds of goods are taken from the weavers hands.

† Each thread consists of five ends of the worm.

‡ In order to ascertain the length spun by one worm, I warped off one of their cases on a warping mill, and found that it had spun upwards of 550 yards.

that were the rearing of silk established in some parts of Scotland, where living is cheap and the price of labour low, it would turn out to be an object of importance to places of the above description.

Should any of the ladies or gentlemen of your acquaintance, or readers, who have time and opportunity to make experiments to find out the best method of rearing silk in Scotland, I will supply them this year with a few eggs of that useful insect, the silk worm moth.

Sir,

I Remain your most obedient servant,
ANDREW WRIGHT.

Paisley, Aug. 31. 1791.

The following circular Letter has been lately received by the Editor of this Miscellany; as it respects a subject of great importance, he respectfully requests the favour of any of his readers who may have had occasion to observe any facts relative to the object of enquiry, to communicate them (post paid) to him, which he shall take care to forward to the Bath Society. He remembers to have seen, several years ago, a good many Fir trees, in the island of Arran, gnawed through above ground, so as to make them perish, and was told this was done by the shrew mouse.—He never saw any wild squirrels in Scotland himself, but has heard there are some of these animals in Satton and Humble Woods, in East Lothian.

To the Editor of the Bee.

Bath and West of England Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce.

SIR,

THIS Society has been informed by several gentlemen resident in the counties of Somerset and Wilts, that of late years very great damage has been done to their Fir-plantations, especially among the Scotch Firs, by *squirrels* preying upon the bark, in-

so much that a general destruction of that part of their woods is apprehended. The time when these little animals most commonly attack the tree, is the Spring, after their Winter hoards are exhausted; and their manner of doing it is by gnawing the bark quite round the leader of the tree, a few feet below the top, chewing it for the sake of the moisture, and dropping the woody parts like saw-dust, which may be found scattered on the ground beneath. The tree, thus barked, decays in that part, loses its top by the first rough wind, and of course gradually perishes. One gentleman near Bath, whose plantations are about 40 years old, has lost the greater part of his best Scotch Firs in this manner within the last seven years.

The Society, taking this subject into consideration, has thought proper to institute an enquiry by letter, through different parts of the nation, how far this complaint is general. You are, therefore, respectfully requested to enquire among your friends who have Fir plantations; and be so obliging as to say how far, from such enquiry and your own observation, you have reason to think plantations are generally suffering from the aforesaid or any other cause.

And as, from the supposed neglect and scarcity of oak timber, planting and the preservation of Woods is become an object of great national consequence, you are also respectfully requested to give your sentiments on the present state of oak plantations in general; and how far you think the larch, or any other tree, (capable of being substituted to advantage, for oak, in any branch of ship-building) has been attentively cultivated in your neighbourhood. Such, with any other communication on rural affairs, which you will be so obliging as to make to this Society, on or before the first of November next, will be thankfully received.

By order of the Society,

With much respect,

WM. MATTHEWS, Sec.

Bath, July 30th 1791.

To the Editor of the Bee.

*A Copy of a Letter from the Reverend J. WILSON to the
Reverend J. HEADRICK.*

STOCKPORT, AUG. 23. 1791.

DEAR SIR,

IN the 2d Vol. of the Bee, I submitted to the public a few observations concerning a method of separating the fossile alkali from Glauber's salts. In a letter, which lies before me, you have been so kind as to send me an account of some objections, which have been made to the method which I proposed.

The objections which you have mentioned are contained in the following words ; " That your process would indeed separate the alkali, but would produce a hepar of lime, soluble in the liquid, from which it would be impossible to wash out the alkali ; and that by exposure to the air, the sulphur would again become acid, and re-unite itself with the alkali, leaving the process where it began."

That a hepar of lime is not produced by my process, will, I hope, be abundantly clear from a few remarks. I mix sulphur of soda and charcoal together, put them in a furnace, and after the watery fusion is over, I continue the process till they are melted by a strong heat, and form liver of sulphur.

I then dissolve the hepar in a plentiful quantity of water, and allow it to stand for a few days, till the hepatic smell is mostly gone ; then I draw it off clear, and evaporate it to dryness. When this is done, I mix it with a sixteenth part of its weight of chalk or quick-lime, and put it into a furnace strongly heated, where it is kept till the whole is blended into one mass. As soon as it is taken out, and cooled, it is fit for use.

That it is not in this state a liver of sulphur, is apparent from its having no effect on silver, even though kept among it for a considerable time.

I have made an experiment upon separating the alkali from Glauber's salts, since I received your letter, which has occasioned these observations ; and the alkali, which I separated, has

not tinged silver, which has been kept in contact with it these several days*.

It should seem from these circumstances, that there is very little sulphur remaining in the soda, and must be at least greatly weakened.

When the *hepar sulphuris* is dissolved in water, the sulphur, being scarcely soluble in water, is in part disengaged from the alkali, and sinks to the bottom.

While the solution is evaporating, more of the sulphur is separated, and adheres to the sides and bottom of the vessel. This may be removed by conveying the solution into another vessel, when the process of evaporation draws towards an end. A part of the sulphur which still remains, is probably volatilized in the furnace before the heat becomes so strong as to burn it. In short, by the various parts of the process, so little sulphur remains, that the alkali may be applied to many useful purposes. Though ashes must always be valuable in proportion to their purity, yet it is not absolutely necessary, that, in every case, they should be perfectly free from sulphur. By examining the lies of American *pot* ashes, you will find, that they contain a considerable deal of sulphur, and yet they are very useful in bleaching.

Without saying any thing of the glass-house, or the manufacture of common soap, the fossile alkali, separated according to my directions, will, I hope, be found to be beneficial for boiling or bleaching strong goods in the first stages of bleaching.

It is scarcely necessary to remark, that the purity of the soda, either with respect to sulphur or neutral salts, must depend upon the degree of accuracy which has been observed in conducting the operation.

I by no means suppose that my scheme is free from imperfections, but it has at least novelty to offer in alleviation of its defects, and time aided by experience will, it is hoped, render it more worthy of approbation.

* Since the above was written, I have made some farther experiments with still greater accuracy; the result is this: In no case have I ever found that the alkali obtained by my process has, in its dry state, tinged silver, and in one case a solution of it in water did not affect silver; but I have since made lie of the alkali that does tinge silver a little:

Many fruitless attempts have been made to separate the alkali from Glauber's salts, by the intervention of charcoal, and to leave it uncombined with any considerable portion of sulphur; therefore, if mine be found in any tolerable degree to answer the purpose, it may perhaps escape without the severity of censure. If any gentleman wishes to make trial of this scheme upon a large scale, it will afford me much pleasure to give him all the assistance in my power.

Should any unforeseen difficulty occur on a large scale, in separating the sulphur from the alkali, metallic calces may be applied. This you suggested to me in your letter, and at the same time justly observed, that the "scales of hammered iron," which are to be found in every smithy, would answer the purpose.

If this method be followed, the metal must be used in the moist stage of the process, for in the dry way sulphur has a stronger affinity to fixed alkali, than to any other known substance.

When the hepar has been dissolved, and the solution mostly evaporated, it must be triturated or beaten with the iron scales, in order to form an union between the sulphur and the iron, and to leave the alkali disengaged. The remaining part of the process may be carried on according to the former directions.

I am, Sir,

with much esteem,

your sincere friend, &c.

J. WILSON.

Proceedings in Parliament.

CONVENTION WITH SPAIN.

THE next business of importance that was agitated in Parliament, was the Convention with Spain.

Mr Mainwaring indeed, in the speech he made previous to moving the address, gave a long and warm eulogium on the convention; stating in a very ample manner the benefits that resulted from peace, and giving the minister great credit for the insurance of that peace, by means of the armament and succeeding convention with Spain.—The sending out, said he, so large and powerful a fleet in so short a time, would tend materially to secure us the continuance of peace, *by deterring other powers from insulting us.* He also expatiated on the extent of territory, through which our expanding trade was now suffered to range, the perpetual enjoyment of the southern whale fishery, the policy of our supporting the balance of power in *Europe*, and the means by which we and our allies had been enabled to effect not only that, but to restore the tranquillity to contending nations.

Mr Fox was far from agreeing with him in opinion concerning the convention, and voted for the address on other grounds; declining to enter on the consideration of the convention till the papers respecting it should be laid before the House.

Friday, December 3. 1790.

Mr Pitt, at the bar of the House, presented a copy and translation of the Declaration on the part of his Majesty and the Catholic King, signed at the *Escorial* on the 12th of May last, and the Convention, signed on the 23d of October, which were as follow:

DECLARATION.

His Britannic Majesty having complained of the capture of certain vessels belonging to his subjects in the port of Nootka, situated on the north-west coast of America, by an officer in the service of the King, the under-signed Counsellor and Principal Secretary of State to his Majesty, being thereto duly authorised, declares, in the name and by the order of his said Majesty, that he is willing to give satisfaction to his Britannic Majesty for the injury of which he has complained, fully persuaded that his said Britannic Majesty would act in the same manner towards the King under similar circumstances: and his Majesty further en-

gages to make full restitution of all the British vessels which were captured at Nootka, and to indemnify the parties interested in those vessels, for the losses which they shall have sustained, as soon as the amount thereof shall be ascertained.

It being understood that this declaration is not to preclude or prejudice the ulterior discussion of any right which his Majesty may claim to form an exclusive establishment at the port of Nootka.

In witness whereof, I have signed this declaration, and sealed it with the seal of my arms. At Madrid, the 24th of July 1790.

Signed,

(L. S.)

Le Comte de Florida Blanca.

COUNTER DECLARATION.

His Catholic Majesty having declared that he was willing to give satisfaction for the injury done to the King, by the capture of certain vessels belonging to his subjects in the bay of Nootka; and the Count de Florida Blanca having signed, in the name and by the order of his Catholic Majesty, a declaration to this effect, and by which his said Majesty likewise engages to make full restitution of the vessels so captured, and to indemnify the parties interested in those vessels for the losses they shall have sustained; the under-signed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of his Majesty to the Catholic King, being thereto duly and expressly authorised, accepts the said declaration in the name of the King; and declares that his Majesty will consider this declaration, together with the performance of the engagements contained therein, as a full and entire satisfaction for the injury of which his Majesty has complained.

The under-signed declares, at the same time, that it is to be understood, that neither the said declaration, signed by Count Florida Blanca, nor the acceptance thereof by the under-signed, in the name of the King, is to preclude or prejudice, in any respect, the right which his Majesty may claim to any establishment which his subjects may have formed, or should be desirous of forming in future, at the said bay of Nootka.

In witness whereof, I have signed this counter declaration, and sealed it with the seal of my arms. At Madrid, the 24th of July 1790.

Signed,

(L. S.)

Alleyne Fitzherbert.

CONVENTION.

Their Britannic and Catholic Majesties being desirous of terminating, by a speedy and solid agreement, the differences which have lately arisen between the two crowns, have judged, that

the best way of attaining this salutary object, would be that of an amicable arrangement, which, setting aside all retrospective discussion of the rights and pretensions of the two parties, should fix their respective situations, for the future, on a basis conformable to their true interests, as well as to the mutual desire with which their said Majesties are animated, of establishing with each other, in every thing, and in every place, the most perfect friendship, harmony, and good correspondence. In this view they have named and constituted for their plenipotentiaries, viz on the part of his Britannic Majesty, Alleyne Fitzherbert, Esq one of his said Majesty's Privy Council in Great Britain and Ireland, and his Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to his Catholic Majesty; and, on the part of his Catholic Majesty Don Joseph Monino, Count of Florida Blanca, Knight, Grand Cross of the Royal Spanish order of Charles III. Counsellor of State to his said Majesty, and his principal Secretary of State, and of the dispatches; who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, have agreed upon the following articles:

Article I. It is agreed that the buildings and tracks of land, situated on the north-west coast of the continent of North America, or on islands adjacent to that continent, of which the subjects of his Britannic Majesty were dispossessed, about the month of April 1789, by a Spanish officer, shall be restored to the said British subjects.

Article II. And farther, that a just reparation shall be made, according to the nature of the case, for all acts of violence or hostility, which may have been committed, subsequent to the month of April 1789, by the subjects of either of the contracting parties against the subjects of the other; and that, in case any of the said respective subjects shall, since the same period, have been forcibly dispossessed of their lands, buildings, vessels, merchandize, or other property whatever, on the said continent, or on the seas or islands adjacent, they shall be re-established in the possession thereof; or a just compensation shall be made to them for the losses which they shall have sustained.

Article III. And, in order to strengthen the bonds of friendship, and to preserve, in future, a perfect harmony and good understanding between the two contracting parties, it is agreed, that their respective subjects shall not be disturbed or molested, either in navigation or carrying on their fisheries in the Pacific Ocean, or in the South Seas, or in landing on the coasts of those seas, in places not already occupied, for the purpose of carrying on their commerce with the natives of the country, or of making settlements there: the whole subject, nevertheless, to the restrictions and provisions specified in the three following Articles.

Article IV. His Britannic Majesty engages to take the most effectual measures to prevent the navigation and fishery of his subjects in the Pacific Ocean, or in the South Seas, from being made a pretext for illicit trade with the Spanish settlements; and, with this view, it is moreover expressly stipulated, that British subjects shall not navigate, or carry on their fishery in the said seas, within the space of ten sea leagues from any part of the coasts already occupied by Spain.

Article V. It is agreed that, as well in the places which are to be restored to the British subjects, by virtue of the first Article, as in all other parts of the north western coasts of North America, or of the islands adjacent, situated to the north of the parts of the said coast already occupied by Spain, wherever the subjects of either of the two powers shall have made settlements since the month of April 1789, or shall hereafter make any, the subjects of the other shall have free access, and shall carry on their trade, without any disturbance or molestation.

Article VI. It is farther agreed, with respect to the eastern and western coasts of South America, and to the islands adjacent, that no settlement shall be formed hereafter, by the respective subjects, in such parts of those coasts as are situated to the south of those parts of the same coasts, and of the islands adjacent, which are already occupied by Spain; provided that the said respective subjects shall retain the liberty of landing on the coasts and islands so situated, for the purposes of their fishery; and of erecting thereon huts, and other temporary buildings, serving only for those purposes.

Article VII. In all cases of complaint, or infraction of the Articles of the present Convention, the officers of either party, without permitting themselves previously to commit any violence or act of force, shall be bound to make an exact report of the affair, and of its circumstances, to their respective Courts, who will terminate such differences in an amicable manner.

Article VIII. The present Convention shall be ratified and confirmed in the space of six weeks; to be computed from the day of its signature; or sooner if it can be done.

In witness whereof, we the undersigned Plenipotentiaries of their Britannic and Catholic Majesties, have in their names, and in virtue of our respective full powers, signed the present Convention, and set thereto the seals of our arms.

Done at the Palace of St Laurence, the 28th of October, 1790.

(L. S.)
(L. S.)

El Conde de Florida Blanca.
Alleyne Fitzberbert.

Mr Pitt also presented an Account of the Expences incurred in the Navy during the late armament, and that of the Board of Ordnance, as far as it could be made up.

These papers were all ordered to lie on the table.

Mr Grey said there was a great variety of papers which the House would think it right to have before them previous to any decision on the subject. He supposed such papers were intended to be produced.

Mr Pitt replied, that he had presented such papers as he had in command from his Majesty. What other papers Gentlemen might chuse to move for, he could not foresee; but as far as he could judge, all the papers were now on the table which were necessary for the discussion, or proper to be produced.

Supply.

The House resolved itself into a Committee on his Majesty's Speech; *Mr Gilbert* in the Chair.

A supply being voted to his Majesty, in the indefinite manner which is customary in opening the Committee of Supply, the House resumed, and, after ordering the Report to be received to-morrow, adjourned.

Mr Pitt gave notice, that he meant to bring forward the discussion upon the merits of the Convention, on Monday, the day preceding the call of the House;—and that on the expences of the late armament on the Wednesday thereafter,—and hoped that if any gentleman wished for the production of any other papers, a motion of that nature would occupy their attention some day before the great business of the Convention.

Mr Grey said, he intended to move for the production of other papers than had been already presented, but waited till a fuller House for that purpose.

Mr Pitt said he should strenuously oppose any motion for the production of other papers than those presented by Government.

Friday, December 10.

In a committee of supply, *Mr Gilbert* in the Chair.

The different papers and accounts of expences incurred in consequence of the late armaments, being read,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer moved, "That it is the opinion of this Committee, that a sum not exceeding Sixty-four Thousand Pounds, be granted to his Majesty, towards defraying the charges incurred by the late Armament, as far as the same was made up at the War Office."

General Burgoyne did not mean to oppose the motion, being fully sensible that when expences were incurred for the public service, they must be paid; but he stated his objections to some part of the accounts, alleging that the mode that had been adopted of raising new levies was uneconomical, and contending that a considerable saving would have been made, had the old corps been recruited instead of raising new ones.

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, September 21, 1791.

LIFE OF SIR JAMES STEUART DENHAM,

[Continued from p. 8.]

ALTHOUGH Sir James Steuart's leisure, during the first ten years of his exile, was chiefly employed in social intercourse with the most learned, elegant, and polished characters in France, who delighted in the conversation and friendship of a man who possessed at once immense information, on almost every subject, important or agreeable to society, and the talent of clearly and beautifully expressing his sentiments in flowing and animated conversation; yet he did not allow the pleasures of the circle and of the table to blunt the fine feelings of a man of genius and science. The labour of collecting materials for his great political work was oppressive, and he relieved himself with various enqui-

ries, suited to the exalted ambition of his cultivated understanding, while he turned the charms of conversation to the permanent delight of his associates, and of posterity.

The motto of Apelles, "*Nulla dies sine linea*," was the emblem of Sir James's employment, and it is amazing what may be done by daily attention for improvement, without appearing to abstract any extraordinary time from the common offices and rational pleasures of society. This is the art of idleness which I admire, and have endeavoured to practise and explain.

In the beginning of the year 1755 Sir James wrote his Apology, or Defence of Sir Isaac Newton's Chronology, which at that time he intended to publish, but was prevented by other engagements. It was communicated to several persons of eminence in France and Germany in MS. and produced, in the month of December that year in "*the Mercure de France*," an answer from Mons. *Desbaulieres*, to which Sir James soon after replied.

The great Newton, applying astronomical and statistical principles to the ancient chronology of Greece, had chastised the vanity of nations, and arrested the progress of infidelity, in delineating the history of the world.

That wonderful man, whose fame will embalm the reputation of England, to remain long after it shall have sunk *politically* among the nations of Europe, has fixed the land-marks of history where they had been overturned or removed by the carelessness of the old, or the vanity of the new, recorders of antiquity.

Lost in the confusion of excessive pretensions to an antiquity beyond all measure, and disgusted by the superstitious aids that were assumed to support these pretensions among ancient nations, the revivers of learning in our Europe, during the last and the preceding century, turmoiled themselves with controversies between the comparative merits of the ancients and moderns,

and the abettors of the latter, entrenching themselves behind the falsehoods of the ancients, on the scope of their remote history, gave the lie to all antiquity, and, in despair, plunged themselves into the ocean of scepticism.

Happy had it been for society if this scepticism had confined itself to the history of ancient nations in general; but the same spirit, taking disgust at the horrors of Christian ambition and bigotry, and contemplating with derision the ridiculous legends of modern miracles, gave the lie to all religious scripture of the Jews and Christians, and attempted to banish divine intelligence, the superintending providence of Deity, and the true dignity of the human species from the face of the earth!

It was a noble undertaking, therefore, in Sir James, to attempt to disperse this mist of error, by dispassionately and scientifically explaining and supporting the chronology of Sir Isaac Newton. He has done it with great precision and effect; and it is a book well worth the perusal of those who wish to read ancient history with improvement, or to prevent themselves from being bewildered in the mazes of modern conjecture.

And here I cannot help observing, that the virtuous and judicious student, may, in the perusal of Sir Isaac Newton's chronology, provide himself with an antidote against one of the most subtle poisons of modern infidelity, which insinuates itself through the medium of the Mosaic history. The improvement of mankind, says that infidelity, is so slow, that we are forced, upon rational principles, to deride the supposition of so short an interval between the plantation of our species and its high improvement, in ages almost too remote to be the subject of history. But from the first settlement of the conquerors of Greece, to the age of Greek perfection, in all the arts of life there did not intervene more than eight centuries.

Greece was settled by a people in a migratory and barbarous state, though not quite so barbarous as the unhappy wandering tribes of the Celts, who thinly peopled Greece, and the marshes and forests of old Europe, as the unpolished American people did the continent of Columbus when it was first visited by its conquerors.

Social man, therefore, is rapid in his improvement, beyond all the calculations of philosophical historians. The poison is expelled, the virtuous student revives.—He treads on the firm ground of his own rational powers, and spurns the dark and insidious assassin of his religious belief.

A painter, it is said, in Italy showed a picture of the crucifixion to his son, who was about to publish somewhat against the religious prejudices of his country, and pointing to it said, “My son, behold the fate of a “Reformer;” but if my son should meditate a defence of religion, and fear the scorn of philosophers, I would show him a portrait of Sir Isaac, and say, “My son, “fear not to be a Christian; remember the sentiments “and the reputation of Sir Isaac Newton.”

This work of Sir James Steuart was printed and published at Francfort on the Maine, for John Barnard Eichenberg the elder, in the year 1757, in 4to.

In the year 1758, and the following, the British House of Commons took up the consideration of a statute to regulate a general uniformity of weights and measures throughout the united kingdoms, which had been so often unsuccessfully attempted.

This called the attention of Sir James, not only to the investigation of the particular subject that engaged that of the House of Commons, but to devise a method of rendering an uniformity of weights and measures universal. He thought the cause of former disappointments in this useful pursuit had been the mistaken notion that one or other of our present measures should be adopted for the new standard. After the plan had

been relinquished by the parliament of England, he digested his notes and observations on this important disquisition into the form of an epistolary dissertation, which he transmitted to his friend Lord Barrington, and resolved, if there had been a congress assembled, as was once proposed, to adjust the preliminaries of the general peace in 1763, to have laid his plan before the ministers of the different nations, who were to prepare that salutary pacification of the contending powers.

This epistolary dissertation Sir James afterwards reduced, at Coltness, in the year 1777, into a form more proper for the public eye, and sent a corrected copy to a friend, reserving another for the press, which was printed last year for Stockdale in Piccadilly.

In this tract the author shews from the ineffectual attempts that have been made to alter partially, by innovation, the standards of measures, or weights *, that the effectual plan to be adopted, is to depart entirely from every measure whatsoever now known, and to take, *ad libitum*, some new mass instead of our pound, some new length instead of our ell, some new space instead of our acre, and some new solid instead of our gallon and bushel.

For this purpose Sir James proposes as the unit, a mass to be verified with the greatest possible accuracy, equal in weight to ten thousand Troy grains.

The pendulum as it swings at London, to beat seconds of time, he proposes to be the measure of length.

Sir James, after having laid down his fundamental principles, proposes an ingenious plan for rendering their adoption universal all over the world, for the particulars of which, I must refer to the treatise itself.

He proposes that the solemn verification of the standards should take place in London, which, on the ground of the acknowledged fame, and ancient superiority of Rome, once the capital of Europe, I would

* Perhaps it might be made appear that motives of convenience and particular interest has still more effectually opposed these reforms, than the motives assigned in the text.

have to be performed in that city. England sinking, as it is daily, in real importance, can never hope to take the lead in future schemes of glory, and eminence; and therefore I hope that the American states may have the advantage of verifying the noble project of our illustrious Scot.

Generations, writes he, pass away, kingdoms and empires change, but mankind may be said to be immortal. It is, therefore, no objection against any scheme for their improvement, that time is required for the execution of it. A thousand years to mankind are not equal to a day in human life. Weights and measures once properly established would survive the greatest revolutions and convulsions of states; and therefore the only possible method by which such a plan can be brought to bear *is by time*, the prospect of ease and utility, and by the medium of science and of the arts. I am sorry to have slighted my own country and nation in the course of these remarks. But Great Britain never had in the eye of a true philosopher, and politician, the stamina of a sound and lasting constitution †. Her features indeed were bold, and her temper amiable. She once obeyed the laws of nature and nations, of justice, and of humanity. Her morals were purer than those of the surrounding nations, Such a nation deserved, if I may so say, the countenance and approbation of the God of justice and mercy,

† This position will be controverted by many. Why this despondency respecting Britain? Scotland, at least, is certainly in a state of rapid progressive improvement; and is not knowledge more generally diffused now than formerly. Why then should Britain decline? At what period, and in what country do we not find defects; but where is the political constitution that can boast of its *stability* with that of Britain? What marks of decay have we yet experienced? Let men of sense but set themselves steadily to oppose hurtful regulations as they occur, and we shall see them decrease. Without this attention can any nation exist? and have we ever yet seen an institution where the exertions of individuals can produce greater effect than in our own? Why then despair! From despondency, a ruinous inactivity insues; from active exertions prosperity must as necessarily follow.

and the God of battles ratified her pretensions by his over-ruling providence.

These times are past †.

Sir James after having obtained his pardon, retired to Coltness, in the county of Lanark, the paternal estate of his family, where he turned his attention to the improvement of his neighbourhood by public works and police, and drew the first good plan for a turnpike bill, suited to the circumstances of Scotland, which has been since generally adopted. He repaired his house, planted, improved, and decorated his estate, and in

† Notwithstanding the respect due to the very ingenious writer of these memoirs, it is not possible to peruse these remarks without seeing that they must have been written at an unguarded moment. Where, I would ask, is the people whose morals are more pure than those of Great Britain? If we consider individuals, does not every man know, of his acquaintance, persons of the most respectable character; and if foreigners are to decide, what nation is more respected than Britons, as individuals? In their dealings as merchants who has heard the British character ever impeached? And where is a more generous and liberal spirited enemy to be found? In what nation is private charity carried to a greater height? Was not HOWARD a Briton, and where else could we look for the developement of such a character? Is not beneficence the striking feature of the British character, and has not the exuberance of that disposition given rise to innumerable charities; many of which tho' well-intended have been productive of very serious evils? Are not the British more fertile in devices, from motives of kindness, for rescuing, even the *vicious*, from the jaws of destruction, than any other nation? Did not the idea of Sunday schools originate here? Is not the PHILANTHROPIC society, that most beneficent of all institutions, intirely of British origin? And shall we still say that this people who are constantly busied in such researches are destitute of virtue?

As a nation, where is justice more faithfully administered? Where are the rights of nations more respected? Where is the public faith more sacred? Where are the persons and property of foreigners, as well as natives, more effectually secured? Has ever Britain, like that state which is here held up to view as a model of purity of morals.—Has ever Britain like that state protected her subjects against the just demands of her foreign creditors, and by a public law, encouraged individuals to practice *injustice*? If this be the morality we are bid to imitate, long may we remain at a distance behind!

§ National prejudices ought not to be fomented. Let us strive universally to extirpate error, and to disseminate useful knowledge, without drawing invidious parallels, which have an opposite tendency, and we shall best discharge our duty to the public.

social intercourse rendered himself the delight of his neighbourhood, and country.

Never was there a man, who with so much knowledge, and so much energy of expression in conversation, rendered himself more delightful to his company, or was more regretted by his acquaintance when he died. Nor was the active mind of Sir James unemployed for the general benefit of his country during his retreat. He was engaged by the directors of the East India Company of England to digest a code for the regulation of the current coin of Bengal; the plan for which important regulation he printed, and received from the court of directors a handsome diamond ring, as a mark of their approbation.

He prepared for the press, but never published, an antidote to the *système de la nature* by Mirabeau, wherein the paralalogisms, and foolish reasoning of that infidel work are examined, detected, and confuted. It is written in French, and were the work of Mirabeau worth refutation, might be printed with much advantage to Sir James's reputation as a controversial writer.

Non tali auxilio non, defensoribus istis tempus egit.

Sir James died in November 1780, and was buried at Cambusnethan, in Lanarkshire, on Tuesday the 28th of that month; the Duke of Hamilton and his neighbours performing the last offices to the remains of that truly interesting citizen, and bedewing his ashes with their tears. I had the honour and comfort to attend him till he became insensible by the fever that carried him to his grave. On Sunday the 19th of November I saw, for the last time, this excellent person, and left him at two o'clock in the afternoon, when he took to his death bed. On the Friday preceding, I saw him sign his last letter to Sir George Colebroke, guiding him in his researches on the revenue of France. With his own hand he wrote the following note subjoined to his name :

Written at Coltness, in the month of October 1780, and now transmitted, while in the hands of surgeons at Edinburgh, the 17th of November.

If for the manes of the just any place be found ; if as wise men hold, great spirits perish not with the body, pleasing be his repose. Let us adorn his memory with deathless praises, and, as far as our infirmities will allow, by pursuing and adopting his excellencies. This is true honour ; this the natural duty incumbent on his affectionate relation.

ALBANICUS.

An Account of SAMAR, one of the Philippine, or Bissayan Isles, from the Travels of Mons. Pages, lately published.

THE adventures of Robinson Crusoe have been much read, and universally admired, on account of the interesting picture they exhibit of a man struggling against the difficulties that solitude occasion, and surmounting them by perseverance, ingenuity, and industry. All nations, in the first stages of civilization, exhibit a spectacle somewhat of the same nature, and are particularly interesting, especially where gentleness and kindness form the prevailing trait in the character of the people. On this account the discovery of the Pelew islands forms one of the most enchanting parts of the history of mankind. Those who are accustomed to look upon all nations as barbarians who are strangers to the many inventions that European ingenuity hath discovered, will perhaps be inclined to look down with contempt on the mild inhabitants of the islands here described ; but others, who observe with what ingenuity they supply their wants, and with what simple implements they perform the various operations they find necessary for their accommodation, will be willing to allow, that in

every situation, the superiority of men over other animals is manifest, and that, wherever the human race exists, he needs not be ashamed to embrace the individuals he may meet with as his brethren. It is not a little remarkable that we discover less savage barbarity, and more native gentleness of disposition among the inhabitants of the islands in the Indian ocean than any where else on the globe. This is a pleasing exception, to account for which may give rise to some very interesting speculations. Our ingenious traveller thus describes this happy island :

EXTRACT.

“ In this island the soil is extremely fertile, easily cultivated, and rewards the industry of the labourer at least forty fold. Besides other grain, the Indians sow a considerable quantity of rice, but which is wholly intended for the use of the parochial clergy*, the settlement of Manilla, and the governor of the province. The common food of the natives consists chiefly in a species of potatoe, yams, and a root named *gaby*. Agreeably to the example of the Indians, I lived here entirely on roots, whose sugary taste is much more pleasant than the uniform insipidity of boiled rice. At first they seemed heavy and flatulent, but they soon became familiar to my stomach; and I was satisfied in the end that they were more nutritious to the constitution, as well as more relishing to the taste. I ate likewise a good deal of pork, which is less in size, and runs more into filaments, than ours. This flesh, though black, and consisting of strong fibres, like those of the ox, is much sweeter, and by no means difficult of digestion. The Indian has a surprising dexterity at discovering the

* The parochial clergy were here all of the order of the Jesuits at the time our author was there, who had an influence over the people nearly as great as that they enjoyed in Paraguay, which, we must do them the justice to say, seems to have been exerted chiefly in augmenting the general happiness of the community.—EDIT.

*Tabon's** nest, and is sometimes so lucky as to light upon no fewer than forty in one hoard; but from the short experience that I had of this aliment, I thought it heavy and indigestible.

“ From the sap of the cocoa; nipe, and cobonegro-trees, they obtain the materials for an excellent species of brandy. The last of these owes its name to the black colour of its fibres, which are manufactured by the natives into cables and different kinds of cordage. Another article of Indian food is the substance of the cocoa-nut, which is eaten in the first stage of congelation; for after it becomes solid, and acquires in some degree the taste of a fresh almond, it ceases to be equally digestible.

“ The only instrument used by the Indian, either for the purposes of war or industry, is a kind of *couteau-de-chasse*, named, as is above-mentioned, *cris*, or *campilan*, an instrument which, after serving him against the enemy, enables him to cut down the largest tree in the wood, to be formed into a canoe, or split into deals for more ordinary uses. When the *campilan* is so much worn as to be of little further service to him, it is still employed by his wife to grub up a light soil, in which she plants yams, potatoes, and other roots. In a space of two months they are dug up in a state of maturity, and of a wonderful size; infomuch, that within the

* The *Tabon* our author describes as an animal no bigger than a turtle dove, whose eggs are as large as those of a goose. When the female *tabon* is about to lay she makes a deep, winding hole in the sand, and having deposited her egg, instantly fills it up, and smooths over the surface as before. In process of time the sun, having hatched the eggs, the chicks begin to scratch their way for the light, but in this attempt many of them perish.

One of the greatest benefits to be derived from travels is, that of obtaining a knowledge of such animals and vegetables as may become useful to man; so that I consider those who describe these with care, as among the great benefactors of the human race. In this view our author will occupy a considerable rank, though neither a professed zoologist nor botanist:—but Dampier continues still to hold the first rank among this class of writers.—EDIT.

compass of eighty yards, the Indian finds his annual supply of these articles for the maintenance of a numerous family.

“ The sugar-cane, cabbages, garlic, onions, melons, the Chinese-orange, lemons, vegetables, and, though in small quantity, several other kinds of fruit little known in Europe, are cultivated in this island. It abounds in figs, of which I reckon no fewer than thirteen or fourteen different species, with a great variety of perfumes*. The natives are instructed to give particular attention to the culture of the cocoa-tree, which grows here to an uncommon size. Their woods produce the *pamplemous*, a species of orange, near five inches in diameter, pepper, honey, and wax. Indeed all these islands are eminently distinguished by the labours of the bee; and hence I have seldom made an excursion into the woods without meeting numbers of bee-hives, suspended in form of oblong gourds, from the branches of the trees.

“ The bounty of Nature in *Samar* is no less visible in the variety and excellence of its game. The woods swarm with birds almost of every description, particularly the common fowl, which is distinguished, however, from ours by the shortened proportions of its body and legs. The colour of the hen is grey, with feathers spotted like a partridge. There are three different species of turtle-dove; the first grey, and as large as a pullet; the second seems, however, to be only a dwarfish breed of the first; the third is green, and when prepared for the table affords delicate eating. I met with a kind of bird peculiar, I believe, to these islands, named *calao*, as large as a goose, and agreeable to the taste, but extremely shy and difficult to approach. He frequents low fenny grounds, perches on the tallest trees in their vicinity, and flits through the air with a

* Might it not be of importance to try to naturalize some of these varieties in Europe? This observation applies equally to some of the animals after mentioned.—EDIT.

flight singularly rapid. This bird may be distinguished by a large red oblong crown, which seems to be of the same substance with, and, indeed, only a continuation of, his bill. This ornament, added to his size, gives him a kind of majestic air. The feathers are black, mixt with a dusky red. I had the good fortune to obtain a very beautiful head of the *calao*, which I had the honour to present to the Academy of Sciences at Paris. The parroquet, cockatoo, and other pretty little species of the same genus, no larger than a linnet, are surprisingly common. There is also found here a very small bird, of the diminutive size of a wasp, whose colours, consisting in a shade of yellow, mixed with red and blue, are particularly vivid and beautiful. Many kinds of monkeys, one of which is remarkably large; roebucks, wild buffaloes, and other quadrupedes, abound in the woods. I was told a great deal concerning the difference of size, and peculiar qualities of their serpents; but I confess I saw none either so extremely large, or surprisingly small, as to justify the reports of the natives.

“ In these favoured isles Nature seems to have been providently mindful of the cloathing, as well as the subsistence of the inhabitants. The foot of a tall species of the fig-bannan consists in numberless folds of bark, which, in a certain period of putrefaction, are separable without art or difficulty. These, pieced together, afford them a species of fine linen, harsh, indeed, and disagreeable to the skin, in its natural state, but which they have learned to render sufficiently soft and pliable by a preparation of lime. Besides serving them as the materials of linen cloth, it is likewise useful to them for the purposes of cordage.

Man, in fine, is fed, cloathed, and lodged in Samar at little expence of toil, either in mind or body. His rivers are every where shaded with the bamboo, and his woods supply him with the nipe and routan, two shrubs which are made to answer all the purposes of

nails; and such is the dexterity of the Indians in uniting the different pieces of bamboo, that in the whole construction of his hut, neither iron nor any other metal are to be found. Two months industry in the year suffice to provide for the wants of a people whose innocent and gentle manners are, to me, the strongest proofs of the real happiness they enjoy.

(To be concluded in our next.)

To the Editor of the Bee,

Strictures on Scottish Poetry, particularly that of ALLAN RAMSAY.

SIR,

FOR about five years past we have been amused by the booksellers with an incessant chorus of verses in the Scottish dialect. Every county in Scotland has a number of words and phrases peculiar and intelligible to itself only, and it is usual for the bard to borrow, without selection, the provincial vulgarisms to which he has been accustomed. Before an author can please he must make himself understood. To a native of Annandale the dialects of Aberdeenshire and of Somerset are equally discordant. The fame of such poetry can hardly be extensive or lasting. But besides, these writers commonly deform their pages with every antiquated phrase which perverted industry can discover; and it would not be difficult, though indeed invidious and useless, to point out passages where vulgarity itself is evidently misunderstood and misapplied.

When a man of sense intends to publish in rhyme, he will first make himself familiar with at least a few of the best and most popular English poets. By an attentive comparison of their works with his own, he will either learn the art of elegant composition, or the propriety of silence. When a person discharges upon the

public a volume of dull and tiresome verses, it is charitable to believe he is unacquainted with Swift and Dryden. In knowledge of books, the class of poets I mention are sometimes deficient; and thus between artificial grossness and actual ignorance, there is no wonder that they often fall short of perfection. It is indeed a principal argument with their admirers, that a poet of true genius does not require the help of learning. The author of a quaint essay on original composition seems inclined to sanctify this chimera. But Horace more properly says, "I neither see what learning can accomplish without genius, or genius without learning."

Their advocates have adduced Shakspeare as an example of uncultivated excellence; but those critics talk at random who assert him to have been illiterate. He understood both French and Latin, though perhaps imperfectly. His extensive acquaintance with ancient and modern history, and the completeness of his ideas on every subject, attest, with a force far beyond the parade of citations, that he must have been a very diligent reader. When he represents Bohemia as a maritime country*, and an Illyrian as referring to "the bells of St Bennet†," we can only suppose that he was sporting with his audience. His style also, wherever he chuses to exert himself, is more various, more nervous, and more elegant, than that of any English writer of the sixteenth century.

Of poets in the Scottish dialect, the best and greatest, beyond all comparison, is Allan Ramsay. He appears to have studied Dryden's style with much attention, since his verses flow with the most pleasing volubility. His provincial phrases are few, when compared with those of some of his imitators; and he has selected them with such happy dexterity that they are almost equally familiar in every part of the kingdom. But

* Winter's Tale.

† Twelfth Night.

this is only a secondary part of his praise. A vein of solid good sense, a nice discrimination of character, a nervous elegance, and a pathetic simplicity of expression; in a word, the genuine language of nature, of passion, and of poetry, place his pastoral comedy almost beyond our praise. From the chemist and astronomer, to the girl at her spinning-wheel, his eloquence kindles every heart, and irresistibly commands our tears. It is true that we have here no bawdry, no jealous alderman cuckolded, no amorous suicide, no wire-drawn soliloquy, no pedantic ill-jointed epithet, no raving despot, such as never existed but in the frenzy of a modern play-wright. But the GENTLE SHEPHERD does not rest its reputation on the caprice of a theatrical audience. Were all the copies of Ramsay's comedy annihilated, the grateful memories of his countrymen would eagerly supply the loss. Many of his readers have almost the whole poem by heart; and what other Scottish author can pretend to such universal admiration?

It has been said, that Ramsay did not write this poem; and when that story was no longer tenable, it has been loudly affirmed, that at least a great part of it was written by somebody else; and the whole corrected by gentlemen who were the author's patrons. The word *patron* is pronounced, by men of sense, with a tone of contemptuous pity. If these critics suggested any proper alterations, this seems to have been the only act of benevolence which they bestowed on the author: for, in the proper style of *patronage*, they suffered him to live poor, and die bankrupt*.

In Scotland, the first circulating library was kept by Allan Ramsay. His original profession is often mentioned by himself; and to those who are weak enough to despise it, we may reply in the words of an elegant

* His debts were afterwards paid by his son, the famous painter.

critic, Ramsay "was not a man who could become
"man by a mean employment†."

Laurence-kirk,
12th Sept. 1791.

TIMOTHY THUNDERPROOF.

The foregoing remarks, in as far as they respect the impropriety of adopting local phrases that are not generally known, and much more especially, in guarding against the improper use of these phrases, (a thing too often little attended to by writers in the Scottish dialect) will be universally admitted as just, and highly deserving the attention of every writer. It is also believed, that few persons who are acquainted with the Scottish dialect will dispute the justness of the eulogium on the Gentle Shepherd; which, in regard to purity of language, stands unrivalled in this country; and in respect to a just and natural delineation of rural characters, amiable from their native simplicity of manners, equally devoid of a quaint affectation of delicacy on the one hand, or rude rusticity on the other, admits not of a parallel in any age or country, if some of Shakespeare's rural scenes be excepted. But as to the further remarks contained in the above critique, opinions will differ;—and much may be said on both sides. It is not a little remarkable, however, that Allan Ramsay, who is so singularly chaste in the use of the Scottish dialect in the Gentle Shepherd, is in his other writings equally licentious in his application of Scottish phrases as most of the writers who have succeeded him. This circumstance has perhaps tended more to cherish the idea that he was indebted to others for the principal excellencies of this work, than all others put together. But though none of his other works can be equalled to this admirable drama, there runs through the whole of them a rich vein of poetic

† Johnson's Life of Milton.

fire, that would have justly intitled him to a very high rank among the muses, had that performance never existed.

Gleanings of Biography.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

EVERY body knows the story of Wallace, the Scottish patriot giving the English a great overthrow at Stirling, by letting part of their army pass over a wooden bridge which was then at that place, and then separating them from the rest by means of a carpenter, who had prepared matters so, that the bridge fell down by the pulling out of a pin.

The descendents of this carpenter still remain at Stirling, and take the surname of Pin, or the Pin; as John the Pin, Robert the Pin, &c. A much more honourable surname this than Plantagenet or Bourbon. Plantagenet in particular took its origin from the trifling circumstance of broom being worn in the hats of some of the chiefs of that house of Anjou in battle.

Some time or other we may know how to confer true nobility, without the distinctions of ranks and privileges. *Felix faustumque sit!* When I visited Stirling, after I knew this tradition, I sent for the Pin, and made him one of my best bows, as it were to the shade of the great Wallace!

*Est hic, est animus lucis contemptor,
Et istum qui vita bene credat emi honorem.*

JOHN LAW OF LAURIESTON

Was the eldest son of a goldsmith burghess in Edinburgh, by Elizabeth Campbell, heiress of Laurieston,

near that city, and was born about the year 1681. When a very young man, he recommended himself to the King's ministers in Scotland, to arrange and fit the revenue accounts, which were in great disorder at the time of settling the equivalent before the Union of the kingdoms. Mr Law's father died about the year 1704. John was bred to no business, and lived on the rents of the small estate of Laurieston. In his person he was of a very genteel and handsome address, much given to gallantry and finery; and, giving a sort of tone at Edinburgh, he went commonly by the name of Beau Law. Law's immediate younger brother was bred to his father's trade of goldsmith; but, when his brother succeeded in France, left his occupation, and blazed at Paris, during Law's administration of the finances of France, with much splendour of equipage, and magnificence of table. On the bursting of the Mississippi bubble, and his brother's disgrace, he returned to Scotland; and in consequence of his younger brother's becoming Roman-Catholic, claimed the estate, which had been entailed by the mother (who was heiress) upon the third son after John's decease; and his claim was sustained by the Court of Session.

The papers relating to this process are in the Advocate's Library at Edinburgh, where several facts and dates may be obtained by the biographers of the unfortunate projector.

John Law fought a duel, for which he was forced to fly his country in the midst of his gallant career. In some of the French literary gazettes, it is said that he run off with a married lady.

Lady Catherine Law his wife, lived, during his power in France, in the most stately manner, and was courted by all the worshippers of Plutus. But poor Law went to Pluto unregretted at Venice, and was there buried, without any distinction, and, I believe, without a monument to record his extraordinary fortunes!

La Fama ch'invagisce a un dolce suono,
 Gli suberbi mortali, e par sì bella,
 E un Echo, un Sogno, anzi d'un Sogno
 UN OMBRA
 Ch'ad ogni vento si dilegua è sgombra.

The truly elegant and excellent Horace Walpole has a fine picture of Law by Rosalba; perhaps her *chef d'Oeuvre*. It is certainly very like him whom it was painted for:—were the flowing wig converted into a female dress, it would be the exact resemblance of his daughter Lady Wallingford. I have given these particulars to assist my countrymen in writing a life of Law, for which they will find abundant materials in the French pamphlets of the years 1721 and 1722; in Sir James Steuart's Political Oeconomy, who gives the most accurate account of his scheme; in Justamond's private life and memoirs of the reign of Louis Quinze, in Monsf. Anquetil's history and memoirs of the Court of France, during the reign of Louis Quatorze, and in many other books of those times.

I am, Sir, your humble Servant,

ALBANICUS.

For the Bee.

To the learned and entertaining Writer of the Travelling Memorandums,

SIR,

I HAVE been your companion on your travels ever since they began to make their appearance in this Miscellany, and I cannot deny myself the pleasure of acknowledging the instruction and amusement they have afforded me. I am particularly pleased with your account of Marseilles, to which I beg leave to add the following short notices. Monsf. Gresson, of the acad-

mies of Marseilles and Lyons, has published an excellent collection of the antiquities and monuments of Marseilles, containing many interesting particulars relating to its history, both ancient and modern, and the fine arts, in five chapters, illustrated by many plates; the whole work consisting of 296 pages in quarto, printed at Marseilles, for Moyse, 1773.

The *Almanac Historique de Marseille*, begun in 1770, and continued, I believe, to the present time, is full of many very curious particulars, suited to visitors. The motto of this Almanac ought to excite attention :

Maffiliâ disciplinam atque gravitatem, non solum Græciæ sed haud scio an cunctis gentibus anteponendam jure dicam.

CICERO ORATIO, p. Flacco.

Marseilles has been prolific in learned and eminent men ; for not to speak of *Ofcius*, the celebrated ancient orator, and the still more ancient *Ritheas* and *Petronius*, it has produced many celebrated modern lawyers, physicians, and artists.

Monf. Papon has written a large book, entitled, *Histoire generale de Provence*, dedicated to the States, and printed by their order. It is arranged according to five epochs ; and in each he mentions all the eminent persons who have adorned that country, as well as all the remarkable circumstances that are worth attending to in the different departments of history and science. Monf. Papon was librarian of the college of the society of the Oratoire.

The Academy of Belles Lettres, Sciences and Arts, at Marseilles, does not admit strangers to their meetings as visitors, which is to be regretted. The same regulation, I believe, takes place at Lyons and elsewhere in France. The coral fishery at Marseilles is a peculiar article of commerce, and worth the attention of the traveller. It is free on the coast of Provence, and the mart for it is at Marseilles. They assort the coral in nine different parcels, according to the colour,

from the deep red of the poppy, to light carnation; and it finds its way to India, China, the Levant, and Arabia. The Mahometans, it is well known, bury their dead with collars formed of this beautiful production; of which, when large pieces of a fine colour are found, of an inch or more in diameter, they are turned of a spherical form, and have been sometimes sold at Leghorn for fifty guineas a-piece. I cannot conclude this letter without thanking you for your excellent testimony to the transcendent merit of Corneille, your defence of Shakespeare, and chastisement of Voltaire.

I am, Sir,

A Traveller in my Elbow-chair.

ON FROISSART.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR, *Spring-Place, Kentishtown, Sept. 5, 1791.*

I OBSERVE that in the Bee 25th May 1791 there is some notice of Froissart as an historian of England, and a wish expressed for an accurate version of his work; and in that of 15th June a manuscript of his Chronicle in the library at Breslau is mentioned as being fuller than any which is printed. Give me leave to add, what has perhaps escaped the notice of your correspondents, that there is a version of him in old English, which is exceedingly scarce; that we have two most magnificent manuscripts of his Chronicle written in the fifteenth century, in the King's library; that they and the editions all vary widely from each other, so that, to do justice to a new edition in French, or a translation, would be a work of prodigious labour, no less than a careful collation of the whole manuscripts and editions. It is however a

work, which I have had in contemplation to attempt at some future period, provided there appears a probability of the expence of publication being defrayed by the public; for though I am willing to devote my time and labour to the illustration of our antient history, *et terri dum prosum patriæ*, I cannot afford to do it at my own expence. What renders Froissart peculiarly valuable with me, is, that he is one of the very few original and authentic writers, who throw any light upon Scottish history, and that what he relates, is not compiled from the works of others, but from his own knowlege.

In consequence of your essays upon the silk-worm, and of my warm wishes for the prosperity of Scotland, I have had some conversation with a gentleman who is acquainted with the method of treating them in Italy and France. He apprehends the greatest danger will be from the lateness of the leaves coming out upon the trees*, and recommends the Siberian mulberry as the most likely species to come to perfection in Scotland†.

Have you ever considered the mode of managing bees near Athens, which is described in Wheeler's Travels in Greece, whereby the lives of the bees, and the genuine flavour of the honey are preserved? Bees are fond of heather, and like the smell of salt-water; circumstances which render the Highlands and islands very fit places for rearing them.

In consequence of your request on the cover of the Bee, 29th June, I have sent you the inclosed extracts

* It has been already remarked that in this climate the eggs of silk worms can easily be kept without hatching, till any time required. The mulberry here begins to leaf in May. Were it July there would be sufficient time for the silk worm to finish its operations; so that this objection is not of any weight.—*Edit.*

† The editor will be obliged to Philalban, or any of his readers who can inform him where plants or seeds of the plant, or a good description of it can be found.

from scarce Scottish books of the sixteenth century, to make such use of as you think proper. If you find the insertion of them an advantage to your miscellany I shall reckon my time well employed in contributing to a work, which, I observe with pleasure, differs from some other periodical publications by rising in merit, instead of falling off, and may perhaps send you a further supply.

Wishing you all manner of success in your laudable undertaking. I remain,

Your most obedient Servant,

PHILALBAN.

Accounts of *nondefcript* places in Scotland will, I dare say, prove agreeable to every class of your readers.

Jean de Beaugue is another French writer, whose little work, entitled, "*Histoire de la guerre d'Episcopie*," ought to be better known in Scotland than it is. He served under Mr Desfè, and was an actor and eye-witness of what he relates.

Detached Observations.

To accuse one of being unpolite is one of the most distressing reproaches that can be made to persons of a certain cast. A man who has a certain portion of genius, a reasonable character, who has been well educated, and who has seen good company, cannot be what is properly called unpolite—he can only be less polite than another. Hence, unpoliteness properly so called supposes certain things very degrading.

After poverty, says the author of the Spirit of Laws, nothing vilifies more in France than the want of politeness.

Politeness is perhaps in one sense even more important than the qualities of the heart. One can absolutely dispense with friendship and friends—but it is impossible to live without society—and there can be no society without politeness.

*Inscription for a Rural Arbour, by a Gentleman
of India.*

HEEDLESS wanderer, come not here
With clamorous voice, or footstep rude;
For Harmony's sweet sake forbear
To violate this solitude.

For ne'er the Nightingale forsakes
This haunt when hawthorn blossoms spring;
Veil'd in the shade of tangled brakes,
She calls her nestlings forth to sing.

Hark ! catch you not their warbling wild,
That softly flow the leaves among ?
Now loudly shrill, now sweetly mild,
The descant of their thrilling song.

The earliest primrose of the year,
Beneath delights in flowers to spread ;
The clust'ring hare-bell lingers near
The cowslip's dew-bespangled bed.

And whilst the western gales allay
The keenness of the noon-tide heat,
They tell where, pleas'd to shun the day,
The violet seeks her low retreat.

If tempted by the twilight shade
Beneath the smooth-leaf'd beech to stray,
Soon will the charms that dress the glade
Bring sweet oblivion of your way.

But, heedless wand'rer, come not here,
This feast was not prepar'd for thee ;
Unless thy heart feels nought more dear
Than nature and simplicity.

J. A.

The Kiss of Love,

An Ode, sent to Eliza with a Bathing-cap, June 1774.

- " How blythe, O June, thy jocund morn !
 " How rich, ye blossoms of the thorn !
 " That flow these groves among !
 " How bright, ye flowers of varied dye !
 " Ye sky-larks warbling as ye fly,
 " How gay your artless song !

 " Thus, freed from care, and guilt, and pain,
 " Smile annual SUMMER's gaudy train
 " Till Winter's deaths destroy ;
 " While wrapt in *reason's* boasted drefs,
 " MAN, lordly Man, still finds distress
 " To check the coming joy !"

Scarce was the murm'ring plaint exprest,
 When from the stream, and slightly drest,
 Appear'd Eliza fair !
 Soft glow'd each charm with roseate youth,
 While smiles of innocence and truth
 Adorn'd her native air.

Struck with each grace, and fir'd with love,
 Like the free songsters of the grove,
 I snatch'd the rapturous *Kiss*—
 'Twas then, thou know'st, sweet blushing maid,
 By yon white hawthorn's fragrant shade,
 Each murmur died in bliss.

Ere fortune brought my charming fair,
 I envy'd every tuneful pair
 That carol'd as they flew ;—
 Each blossom bursting from the spray ;—
 Each flow'ret opening to the day
 In tints of varied hue.

Come then, O thou ! whose chaste cares
 Can folly's thankless plaints suppress,
 And soothe my soul to peace,
 Can fill this breast with rapturous fire,
 Attune the Muse's melting lyre,
 And ev'ry joy encrease.

O come ! and in thy recent guise
 Delight and feast my ravish'd eyes
 With beauties heavenly fair !
 Fresh from the stream, and slightly drest,
 With down-cast eye, and snowy breast,
 And lovely-waving hair.

O haste ! my love ! with blushing cheek,
 And in soft sighs and murmurs speak
 The *harmony of bliss* ;
 And while with melting eye I rove
 O'er charms that kindle chafteft love,
 Yield, yield ! the rapturous kiss !

To Ella.

STRIKE, strike again thy silver sounding lyre ;
 Ella, thou darling of the God of verse,
 Again, in thy clear classic strain, rehearse
 Decay's forc'd ravage, with a poet's fire.
 So when the fainting sun's last golden rays
 Have glimmer'd o'er the foam-white bellowy sea,
 I've heard a Seraph's voice in heavenly lays,
 Oft bid me think on dread eternity !
 " Thy feeble star now shoots its pale beam,
 " Dim'd by disease, o'er life's tempestuous surge,
 " And soon the murmuring waves shall sound thy dirge,
 " While deep thy star is sunk beneath the stream;
 " Then shall it rise in the bright realms of truth,
 " Deride decay, and smile eternal youth."

BIRTHA.

*For the Bee.**Intelligence respecting Literature, and Hints to the Learned.*

GERMANY, which for many years past has been in various territories agitated, first by the imprudent quarrel of the late Emperor with the King of Prussia, about the Bavarian and Palatine Paëts, and then by the foolish novelties introduced into the Belgic States, and Principality and Bishoprick of Liege, begins now, under the mild administration of Leopold, to look forward to better prospects.

Reformed religion, liberty and learning, unfettered by aristocratical and violently monarchical prejudices, will be gradually advanced by the new constitution of Poland, and it seems highly desirable that our British Republic of Learning should diffuse as much as possible its attainments on the Continent, and receive from thence in return as much useful erudition, as a quick and free participation of mutual knowledge can afford.

The libraries in Germany contain treasures of learning that have been little examined; and German writers, overawed by their respective Sovereigns, have not been able (however willing) to make a proper use of the materials for history and biography which are in these repositories.

Professor Schmidt (whose history of Germany is now translated and published in French at Berlin), tho' he had superior advantages as Inspector of the Imperial Records, has been prevented from using them, when he came to treat of the separation of the Protestant Church from the Roman.

In free conversation, however, all over Germany, and even at Vienna, many reputable and respected clergymen, and men of letters, avow the principles of unlimited toleration, and these writers scruple not to confess that the Roman Catholick Church was much amended by the Reformation; that the springing up of sects forwarded toleration and the cultivation of the sciences; and that since the Reformation, the Roman Catholic world has become more enlightened by the new doctrines and spirit of us heretics.

Mr Hegenwisch, an author of great historical talents, Professor of History at Kiel, has united in his works judgment, learning and philosophical reflection, with an entertaining manner.

Professor Planks, of Gottingen, has some years since favoured the world with a History of the Reformation, in which he unfolds the protestant doctrine and system in a manner very clear and candid, and likely to gain attention. His book is the fullest, and best existing, on the German and Helvetic Reformation. He had access to many scarce materials and records, and studied diligently the original works of Luther, Zuinglius, Melancthon, and Erasmus, especially in their too much neglected correspondence by letters, whereby he has made his work an "*Histoire raisonnée de l'Esprit Humain du tems de la Reformation.*" It is delightful to follow this author in his investigation of the gradual rise of the sun of truth in Luther's soul, and in the clearing up the ideas of the first reformers and their contemporaries. The whole history is very philosophical, the diction noble and pure, yet for adepts somewhat too diffuse.

Professor Haberlin's History of Germany is an immense magazine of annals in the manner of our *Carte*. He had the use of the records and library of Wolfenbittel, the most compleat in German history that can be imagined. The first 34 volumes of this book, printed in octavo of a great bulk, bring his history down only to the year 1594!

In the Gottingen library there is a MS. Collection of *Chancellor Viglius Zuichemus's* letters, in twenty-four volumes folio, containing important information relating to the history of the reign of the Emperor Charles V. It contains the speech he made on his abdication in the Netherlands on the 25th of October 1555.

In the same library there is a "*Sommaire des voyages faits par Charles V. depuis 1514, jusques 1551, recuillez et mis par escript, par Jean Vaudenesse, controlleur, ayant suivi sa Majesté en tour les diëts voyages.*" This journal is dedicated to Cardinal Granvella. The author afterwards continued it to 1560. Tho' written in the simple stile of a diary, it contains many remarkable unknown facts.

Very little use has been made of these MSS. by the late Mr Dieze, who corrected Guthrie and Gray's History of Spain and Portugal, which correction is to be found in the German trans-

lation, or rather transformation of that work, in the 12th vol. published at Leipzig 1774.

It cannot be too much regretted, that there exists no where in Europe an independent literary press for the publication of such books as are not to be hazarded by a bookseller, on account of their not being sufficiently popular.

Two hundred and fifty copies of a book in general indemnifies the publishers.

If 250 subscribers could therefore be obtained, of such as have handsome fortunes and form libraries, delighting likewise in employing their leisure in the reading books of real erudition, to give five guineas a-piece annually, to support a press at Edinburgh, which is a cheap mart for the printing of books, the subscribers would be indemnified, by receiving the books coming from such a press, and the active part of such a society might be enabled to form a fund for the purchase of valuable MSS. for their press, to the great enrichment and delight of the republic of letters. I beg leave to propose this noble and liberal undertaking, which, by whomsoever it shall be put in execution, will immortalize the founders, and lay a foundation for the future glory of literature.

ALBANICUS.

Hints to Manufacturers on the Spinning of Wool by Machinery.

SINCE Mr Arkwright discovered a mode of spinning cotton by machinery, several attempts have been made to spin wool in the same way; but hitherto, yarn spun in this way has not given that satisfaction in work that could be wished, unless for a very few purposes; the causes of that failure, it is believed, will be found to be merely accidental, and may be removed by a little attention.

The very ingenious contriver of the carding machine adapted it with much accuracy to the purpose he wished to effect, and to the nature of the materials he was to work upon. Though the principle upon which it is constructed may therefore

be applicable to wool, it is necessary to adopt such alterations as the nature of the materials require. Almost every person, I suppose, now knows that this machine consists of a large cylinder of wood, upon which is fixed a great many cards of the usual kind and size that had been used for carding cotton wool, with blank spaces between, of such a breadth as that the cotton wool which adheres to the one card cannot reach the other, so that the *row*, when cast, falls down without being entangled; but the shortest wool of sheep is longer than cotton, and many kinds of wool, that may be carded, are three or four times its length; it follows, that unless the blank spaces between the cards be made much larger than is necessary for cotton, sheeps wool would reach between one card and another so as to adhere to both, which would occasion the *row* of one card, when cast, not to fall off freely, but to be entangled with the other. To avoid this evil, the cards should be placed on the cylinder at such a distance as to prevent the longest wool that is intended to be carded from reaching across the space. With this slight alteration of the machine, and adapting the teeth of the cards to the wool to be employed*, there is no doubt but wool may be carded upon this machine as perfectly as cotton. If it cannot be *roved* on the machine, of which some doubts are at present entertained, the expence of that operation *by hand* is very trifling, so as not to be much worth regarding.

In drawing the thread, however, a different mode of *manipulation*† becomes necessary between cotton and wool, in order to adapt each of them most perfectly to answer the purposes to

* The teeth of wool cards must not only be longer and more bent than those for cotton, but they must be differently arranged, as every card-maker knows; so that to give more particular directions for these here would be superfluous.

† This is rather an unusual term, but it ought to have a place in our language, because we have no word entirely equivalent to it. *Process* applies, in strict propriety, to chemical operations only. *Manipulation* in like manner applies, in strict propriety, to mechanical operations alone. *Operation* is a general indefinite term, that has no reference to any particular respecting the nature of the business.

which they may be applied. Cotton wool is fine, short, and comparatively unelastic; and in order to make the thread adhere, and have the proper degree of strength, it is necessary it should be twisted much harder than it is proper for wool in almost any case to be, and so much harder than suits some purposes, that it has been found some yarn spun in that way cannot be properly employed for the purposes intended. Slackness of twine is, in particular, necessary in all those woollen goods that are to be subjected to the operation of fulling, without which they do not felt, or *cover* well, in the technical language of the manufacturer. As wool, however, is longer than cotton, so much twist is not required, even for making the yarn of that sort strong; and, therefore, in the operation the machine should be set to twist much less for wool than cotton, and the whole mode of drawing the thread should be carried on in a different manner. Hence it must necessarily follow, that in the first attempts to make yarn of wool in this way, if the persons be employed who had been accustomed to spin cotton, they will perform the operation in an imperfect and improper manner, so as to make the yarn much worse than they would be able to do after a little practice had enabled them to discover the proper mode of *manipulation* for that purpose. But though it should be found that it is difficult, or even impossible, to spin woollen yarn by machinery so slack as is necessary for the perfection of many kinds of work, that circumstance ought not to prove any bar to the use of machinery; for I shall show, in a succeeding number of this Miscellany, that, by an apparatus extremely simple, and certain in its operation, yarn may be untwisted to any degree that should be judged proper in the operation of reeling, at next to no expence. In this way, it is also probable, that machine spun yarn could be made more equal in its texture, and even more loose and open in the thread, than can be done by any other mode of spinning that has been yet invented; and that of course it will answer better for the purpose of making cloth, and other fabrics which require to be fulled to make them *cover well*, than by any other mode of spinning that has been hitherto practised.

Manufacturers who have hitherto attempted to spin wool by machines, complain likewise that they find it impossible to draw the thread in this way as fine as can be done by hand. This is

evidently owing to a circumstance, that admits of being easily remedied by the apparatus I shall describe. Wool being longer in the staple than cotton; requires to be less twisted *during the time of drawing the thread*; but where a long thread is drawn at once from the rove, it becomes, in some measure, necessary to twist it a good deal to make it draw equally. But the filaments of wool, on account of their greater length, as has been said, entangle with each other much sooner than those of cotton, so as to stop the thread in its progress, and prevent it from being drawn at one operation, nearly to the same fineness with cotton. To obviate this evil, it must be necessary, either to twist the thread much less during the operation, or what will answer the purpose still better, to *rove* the wool twice, (*i. e.*) after the thread has been drawn to that fineness it will admit of by the ordinary operation of the machine, to draw it over, a second time, to a greater degree of fineness. But without the untwisting machine this would be altogether impracticable, as the filaments of the wool are, by the twist, so compactly joined together, that they could not be separated till the twist be again taken off, and the thread so much opened in its texture as to admit of the filaments being drawn out to a greater length by a second, or even by a third operation. By means of the apparatus I am to describe, this can be done in an easy and effectual manner; so that there is no reason to doubt, but that wool may thus be spun to the utmost degree of fineness of which it is susceptible, and probably to a much greater fineness than ever could be done by hand alone, at the same time that it might have all the slackness that could be wanted. By the same means, there is no doubt but cotton wool may be spun to a greater degree of fineness than it has been possible hitherto to attain; so that I make no doubt, when this simple apparatus shall be generally adopted, we will be able to produce finer mullins than ever India afforded, if we take care to obtain the finest cotton wool; and much finer fabrics of wool than ever yet has been known.

It is scarcely necessary here to remark, because every manufacturer of wool knows it, that it is of great consequence for the fine spinning of wool, that it be kept in a very considerable degree of heat during the whole operation, as if it be cold, the oil

necessarily employed becomes so clammy as to impede the operation. This circumstance has been here brought into view, merely that it may not be overlooked by those who may think of making a trial, by way of experiment, of spinning wool, after being roved by the hand, upon cotton jennies.

GLEANINGS OF BIOGRAPHY.

To the Editor of the Bee.

What Son or Daughter of Harmony has not heard of Miss Linley?

THE following account of her death may be depended upon as authentic:

“FOR ten days before the close of her life, though in a state of delirium, she was almost continually singing, not interrupted pieces, but in a series of enchanting melody, as perfect as ever she sung in her life.

“A little before her death, she went through the whole of the charming song, “I know that my Redeemer liveth.” Then singing a beautiful Italian air, expressive of happiness, she sunk on her pillow, and expired immediately. Doctor Harrington, who attended her, said he never heard her sing better, if so well, and he was so much affected that he left the room before the conclusion.”

This account was communicated to the late learned and worthy John Loveday, Esq; of Caversham, by a friend at Bath, who had occasion to know its authenticity. A gentleman to whom he read it, observed, “That the effect of Miss Linley’s delirium was indeed extraordinary, and must have greatly affected all present, though she herself suffered little, if we may judge from our dreams, and that the immediate cause of this exhibition may be traced in association and vibration of the nervous system in the brain, which had been previously exerted by rapturous meditation on religious subjects.”

Proceedings in Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, December 10.

IN a committee of supply, Mr Gilbert in the Chair.

The different papers and accounts of expences incurred in consequence of the late armaments, being read,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer moved, "That it is the opinion of this Committee, that a sum not exceeding Sixty-four Thousand Pounds, be granted to his Majesty, towards defraying the charges incurred by the late Armament, as far as the same was made up at the War Office."

General Burgoyne did not mean to oppose the motion, being fully sensible that when expences were incurred for the public service, they must be paid; but he stated his objections to some part of the accounts, alledging that the mode that had been adopted of raising new levies was uneconomical, and contending that a considerable saving would have been made, had the old corps been recruited instead of raising new ones.

This gave rise to an uninteresting conversation, in which the *Chancellor of the Exchequer*, *General Burgoyne*, the *Secretary at War*, *Colonel Phipps*, *Mr Francis*, *Mr Fox*, *Colonel Tarleton*, and *Mr Thomson*, the new member for Evesham, were speakers. The chairman at last put the question, which was agreed to.

Mr Chancellor Pitt observed, that the 40,000*l.* stated for the army levies, included only the bounty money, and that there would certainly be an addition for the half pay. The resolution was agreed to.

Mr Pitt further stated, that the expence in the ordnance department had been 301,476*l.*—of this 150,000*l.* had been received on the vote of credit; there remained 151,476*l.* to be voted.—Agreed to.

The sums issued for provisions for the troops in the East and West Indies, amounted to 81,099*l.*—of this 40,000*l.* had been paid out of the vote of credit, and 41,099*l.* remained to be voted.—Agreed to.

Mr Gilbert left the chair, and the report was ordered to be received on Monday.

Convention with Spain.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, December 13. 1790.

LORD KINNOUL, after a short preface, moved, "That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, praying him to order copies of the memorials, &c. that had passed between our ministers and those of Spain in the late dispute, to be laid before their Lordships."

The Duke of Montrose opposed the motion as being in his opinion unnecessary; he besides complained that the noble Lord had taken the House by surprise.

Lord Kinnoul explained. After a few words, the question was put, and the motion negatived without a division.

The Duke of Montrose then rose again; said he felt no doubt, but their Lordships would agree with him in presenting an humble address to his Majesty, for the happy termination of our differences with Spain, and the peculiar advantages we have gained by the Convention, which he considered as a strong proof of the wisdom and capability of those who had conducted the Convention. He had heard insinuations without doors thrown out against the expences that had been incurred by the armaments to which so much was owing. If any were of that opinion in that House, he invited them to come forward and state their objections,—he himself being convinced in his own mind, the public would think them very moderate.—His Lordship now produced the address, and moved accordingly.

Lord Glasgow, in a few words, seconded the motion.

Lord Coventry said the wisdom of administration had been above all praise, for they had secured us peace upon the most solid grounds, much stronger than by parchment. Treaties, he said, might be broken, but our ministers had shewed them a fleet of seventy sail of the line, an argument of too powerful a nature to be trifled with; and therefore, if they had put the nation to the expence of a million or two, it was more than probable they had saved us from a war that might have cost us an hundred.

Lord Raadon professed great affection to the Sovereign. The address, in as far as it concerned his Majesty, did not come up to his wishes; at the same time it went infinitely beyond them

with regard to administration. How was it possible for their Lordships to commend what they could not understand, as the necessary information was withheld? As to the expences incurred, it was yet to be explained, whether those expences were necessarily incurred, or whether Spain gave us any just cause of complaint. No such matter of fact was before the house. That consideration would induce him to move the previous question.

Lord Sydney said, administration must have been very much changed since he acted with them, if they had involved the nation in *one shilling* additional expence unnecessarily.—He supported the original motion.

The Marquis of Lansdowne allowed, that liberal confidence was due to those who sustain the severe responsibility of office; but in return for this, ministers ought to give a clear account when the day of reckoning comes. If, instead of this conduct, they shall attempt to shelter themselves under the protection of a majority, by refusing to give the necessary information when properly called for; after the time of danger is past, the matter is serious indeed. The constitution is wounded in its vitals. Is it possible that after the ratification of the treaty is made, ministers can call for commendation, and yet refuse to produce the documents that can alone serve to show whether they deserve it or not? this is only insulting the House. The noble Viscount says, that his Majesty's ministers must be strangely changed since he sat among them, if they are now disposed to involve their country in unnecessary expences. I can say with truth they are much changed since I was connected with them. Here the Marquis entered into a panegyric of the peace of 1782, and ran over the administration of Mr Pitt in relation to external politics, in which he found ministers, down to the year 1786, observant of the principles on which they set out. The first incomprehensible act, an act, the meaning or sense of which he could not yet discover, was the concession made to Spain by that memorable convention. And from that moment to the present, he was bound in conscience to declare the whole system had been a marked and violent departure from the principles of the peace, and from the system on which they had set out. Here he entered into a violent philippic against the minister, representing him as officiously interfering with the business of every cabinet in Europe, fomenting quarrels by his intrigues, and deserting his allies after he had involved them in war; and concluded by observing, that they had all the disgrace of attacking their neighbours when their house was on fire, and had gained nothing out of the flames. They had been mischievous without ambition, and had quarrelled for *cats*, when they might have demolished navies.

Lord Grenville denied that any more papers were necessary to enable their Lordships to come to a decision upon the address. Last Session the house had been informed that Spain had insulted the honour of the country; and their Lordships had unanimously addressed his majesty, pledging themselves to support him in retrieving that honour. In consequence of this, ministry had proceeded, and they found the cause of complaint to turn upon two points—the honour of the British flag, and the trade of the country. Previous to entering into any particular, it was first thought requisite to have the point of honour settled; and this was no sooner done, than the declaration, establishing that point, was laid before their Lordships: from that they proceeded to investigate the other business; and Spain had in the end acceded to our claim, and promised to make good the injuries our fellow subjects had sustained: they had also made considerable concessions as to our establishing settlements in that part of the world, which, whatever might be our claim, *they had never recognized before*. His Lordship combatted most of the arguments urged against the address, and concluded with hoping it would meet the concurrence of their Lordships.

Lord Stormont followed the noble Lord through most of his details, combatting his arguments as he went along, and supported the motion for the previous question.

The Marquis of Lansdowne explained, after which the question was put on the previous question, when there appeared,

Contents 30—non-contents 73—majority against the question 43.

Remarks on some English Plays, continued from Vol. IV. page 40.

Florizel and Perdita; or, the Sheep-shearing: A Dramatic Pastoral.

SHAKESPEARE is here mangled as usual; yet it shines in this Collection of modern Farces.

High Life Below Stairs.

It is quite inconceivable, how this piece, flat, and insipid in perusal, should be so managed, as to afford a run of entertainment on the stage. There is in it a just satire on the infamous licen-

tioufness of English servants, and a low kind of humour, mostly affected, and wholly unnatural. The best part of the satire is levelled against high life, and is an aukward imitation of the incomparable Beggar's Opera.

The Mock Doctor.

THE naiveté, spirit and humour of Moliere, a true dramatic genius, are happily enough preserved in this translation, incomparably superior to the former modern pieces in this volume. The songs are in the true unmeaning modern English taste, and no part of the original play.

The Virgin Unmasked : by Henry Fielding, Esq;

THE affected style and character prevail so much in this piece, that I wonder not it is in vogue. The songs too are wretched.

The Upholsterer.

THE outré prevails in every character and scene, to please a London populace.

The Mayor of Garrat : by Foote.

THE simple Jerry Sneak, and his termagant spouse, are comical characters. Jerry was created to fit the peculiar humour of Weston the player, and probably will never be so entertaining, by the performance of any future actor. Major Sturgeon, a character outré, as usual in modern comedy, suited the extravagant drollery of Foote, the author. The rest is insipid.

The Reprisal. By Dr Smollet.

THIS gentleman had humour, and parts, of which his Roderick Random, and some other pieces, will be a lasting monument. In that now before me, the character of the Irishman and Scotsman are natural and entertaining. Heartly and the Lady are no characters at all. And to suit the ungenerous pride of a London rabble, the Frenchmen are too much debased, and treated with illiberal contempt; though Captain Lyon's concluding speech makes some amends for this fault. The songs are in the low modern style. Hearts of Oak is borrowed.

Lethe.

THE scene which exhibits Lord Chalkstone is good. The rest are trivial, and quite in modern taste.

The Deuce is in him.

THIS piece has uncommon merit. The plot is well fancied, and agreeably managed. The dialogue is natural and characteristic, without flatness, or that studied composition of the poet, which appears, for the most part, in our modern comedy. I am agreeably surpris'd to find in this very modern Collection, one piece on which I can bestow such commendation.

The Knights.

THE plot is foolish enough, and the foolish characters are ludicrous and diverting enough, to please very highly a London audience.

The Chaplet.

THE Beggar's Opera is the only musical entertainment of true genius in the English language, I mean of the comic sort. The *Comus* of Milton is in a high style. Whoever can read these pieces, or has seen them performed on the stage, and can bear with patience this, and all the rest of our English operas,

“ May justly be reckon'd an afs.”

I except our charming Scots pastoral, the Gentle Shepherd, and despise all distinctions of South and North Britain; happy, and vain to think, that Shakespeare, Milton, &c. were my countrymen, in spite of shallow partial pride.

Taste.

I venture to assert, that this age has produced no genius for comic entertainment, but Foote alone. Yet even he is far short of the sterling humour, sense, and happy expression of the old poets. He was a dissipated pleasant fellow, and could not afford the pains or patience of forming a complete piece of regular comedy, if the *Minor* is not one. Yet his farces are amusing on the stage, and in the closet.

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, September 28, 1791.

Additional Biographical Remarks on LORD CHATHAM.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

I HAVE have read your characteristical sketch of the political life of the late Lord Chatham, in the 6th number of the 4th volume of your excellent Miscellany, with much satisfaction, as it contains in general very just outlines of his extraordinary career, shaded with the foibles and follies of the people of England.

But, though I bestow this merited encomium on the sketch, I cannot think of allowing it to pass to posterity without stricture, because it contains errors that are injurious to the memory of a man, who, with all his faults, surpassed in every thing that is politically valuable the Pitts and patriots of the present day, as much

as Mr Addison's translation of the twenty-third psalm does that of Tate and Brady, or Sternhold's and Hopkins.

Lord Chatham was bred at Eton college, and was so remarkable for his progress in learning, that Dean Bland, the master, continually boasted of him, and used to exhibit him to his visitors as a prodigy. He was the pride and boast of the school, and notwithstanding his brilliant superiority of talents, was so frank and pleasing in his manners, that he was universally beloved by his companions.

At Utrecht Mr Pitt was no less remarkable for his attachment to science, and his advancement in every branch of polite literature; and there he sometimes amused himself with poetical effusions, several of which are still extant, and show not only a very classical, but truly rich vein of genius in versification. My father and he lived together at Mons. and Madame de Vions; they were almost inseparable; and from him I learnt that Pitt began there to study British politics, and to addict himself to oratory, in meetings of the students for speculative and political discussion. He came over to England in the year 1729, and having obtained a seat in the House of Commons as soon as he was of age, (for he was born on the 4th of November O. S. 1708,) he soon distinguished himself on that great theatre of political eloquence, in a manner that immediately excited universal attention and applause.

Sir Robert Walpole hardly ever heard the sound of his voice in the House of Commons without being alarmed and thunderstruck. He used to tell his friends that he would be glad at any rate to muzzle that terrible cornet of horse. His eloquence was not that of his son William's, smooth, long-winded, and self-sufficient; but noble, fiery, and energetical; he pawed, like Job's horse in the valley, and rejoiced in his strength.

Demosthenes, whose orations he had sedulously studied, were the models he copied, and he copied them with success. Yet he was equally master of the pleasing, diffuse, passionate, and curiously arranged periods and per-oratory addresses of Cicero.

He fascinated the people of England in the gallery, and confounded the minister below on the bench of administration. John Bull must have blood abroad and violence at home, and Pitt was resolved to give him enough of it. With all this, to compass good ends, it was necessary for him to flatter and bribe the king's mistress; to bubble the king as Elector of Hanover, and please the tories by running down Walpole. Had he not done all this he never could have got into the saddle; for Britain in those days was a very different country from what it is at present.

Parties had not then been broken and mingled together to be trampled in a crowd by the sovereign, but were within the accurate focus of the most stupid of the stupid people, and were accordingly, by the people at large, distinguished by the difference of their principles.

War is certainly a ruinous project for any nation, but particularly for one that is commercial and manufacturing; but if war must be undertaken to please a king or a people, it ought to be prosecuted precisely as it was prosecuted by Pitt. For if a nation, situated as Britain was in the year 1756, is to hope for success in war, it must begin by cutting off the resources of a dangerous rival, and by striking all at once so many hard blows on different parts of the enemy, as to incapacitate him from taking the advantage by perseverance. I have often heard Pitt say that this was his masterpiece of policy; and if you compare this with the miserable tissue of the American war, you will understand at once the whole strength of my encomium of Chatham.

I would not be understood to deal blows at men whom I individually esteem, by praising the contrast

of their conduct in the great Lord Chatham, but I would be understood to say, that if war is to be undertaken by a naval power that has extended commerce, it must be done suddenly and violently, and in such a way as to obtain a monopoly of the seas and of commerce during the continuance of the war, to enrich the people, and reconcile them to excessive taxes, which are the necessary consequences of great undertakings.

The most glaring errors of Lord Chatham, which have hitherto escaped the observation of a silly public, are his having omitted to oppose the stamp-act for America when it was first proposed in the House of Commons, during its different stages of passing through the House, that he might raise afterwards a higher idea of his political foresight. His having consented to the imposition of the duties on paper, glass, and other commodities in America, which being a repetition of the invasion of their petitions of right in the matter of the stamp-act, lessened his popularity in America, and exposed him to the contempt of every man in Britain who had common discernment. His overturning the administration of Lord Rockingham, who being a tractable, amiable man, would have easily yielded to his superior pretensions to be prime minister, under the mask of the seals in the foreign department, and his ridiculous choice of Lord Camden for a confidential political friend.

As for his voluntary retirement to the hospital of incurables in the year 1766, it was occasioned by the ill state of his health, and particularly by a wandering gout, which occasionally affected his understanding, and rendered him often unfit for public business. You have represented some features of Chatham's character justly as bearing a resemblance to that of Cromwell; but there was one less known that was very observable to those who had business of great importance and danger to transact with him. He could be fluent and apparently communicative without saying one word that

could convey a precise meaning; he would flutter, and soar, and sing like a sky-lark, and come down upon you unawares with a vigour and effect that was quite astonishing and inexplicable, while he was all the time watching for your opinions and secrets as a cat watches in a bush for a bird; and when he had got his prey, he played with it and dandled it with a grace and manner that surpassed all description. His old secretary Wood saw much of this, and often attempted to describe it; but these oral authorities, on which true history is so dependent, are too fugitive, and too difficult to be ascertained, to admit of much weight with the public. I consider Lord Chatham's real death to have taken place in the month of March 1767. After that period his body was no longer able to maintain the greatness of its inhabitant: and his silly speech in the House of Lords, in answer to the Duke of Richmond, where he talked of America as a part of the unalienable portion of the Princess Sophia, was more like the cant of an old nursery maid, than the masculine sense of an informed statesman. Yet this foolish speech was the luckiest for his family he ever made; and I am persuaded, that had not this accident cost him his life, he would have died out like an airy meteor, and left no trace behind him more than Poultney, and other would-be patriots, who had gone before him. Fortune, not prudence or foresight, regulates the affairs of this world. A man who had been for many years the execration of administration, and by no means the favourite of opposition, is after his death immediately held up as a demi-god, at the desire of a king who would not employ him, and buried by the nation with the funeral pomp of a prince; giving to his family, to the latest posterity, more than he had ever enjoyed in his life-time. All this Reason says is folly, nonsense, and contradiction. But Fortune says all was perfectly as it ought to be.

All these pretty doings were bonfires, lighted by men of both parties, who rejoiced in the death of a man who had been terrible in his youth, and had become troublesome in his old age. The last specimen I have been able to discover of Lord Chatham's perfect understanding after his illness at North-End, Hampstead, in the year 1767, or of the colour and substance of his great mind, may be seen in the following copy of a letter he wrote to a friend, who meditated a tour of North America in the year 1773 :

Lyme Regis, July 5th, 1773.

"The very obliging letter with which you honour'd me, (of the 12th past,) found me at last in this place, where I came about a month since from Burton Pynsent, in order to try sea-air, after a winter of much gout; and I have received great benefit in my limbs from it.

"Your kind remembrance of the past is every way pleasing to me, and the favourable sentiments you entertain of my attachment to the cause of Liberty, and zeal for the honour and prosperity of my country, make me not a little vain; and, (may I add,) suggest withal to my reflection better comfort than political vanity could administer in the close of a dangerous and slippery fortune.

Vixi et quem Cursum dederat Fortuna peregi.

"And I am at present among the forgotten things of the great *World of the Day*; happier far than in it. You tell me you intend to cross the Atlantic next spring, with a view to discover the real situation of America. You will see a world not yet enervated by luxury or tainted by corruption.—Of course ardent and resolute for liberty. How affecting will be the spectacle! How does the honest daughter shame the profligate mother! My best wishes will follow you; and if you shall meet with as much pleasure and advantage where you are

going, as those wishes would assign you, your portion of good things will not be scanty."

There is both head and heart in this letter; and more of them than will probably be found in his posterity, or in those who are now thought to be the props of the British constitution.

I acknowledge Lord Chatham's failings, but they were the failings of a successful British statesman. I remember his good qualities, and his shade would not frown upon me in the Elysian fields, nay, not even on this side the Styx, when the method of relating them were remembered.

I shall close this letter with some remarks on the learning and genius of Chatham.

That he was learned I have already proved, from the testimony of his teachers, when his situation in life could not occasion the suspicion of flattery.

That he was possessed of genius and taste will sufficiently appear from the specimens of them, and from the testimony of the most eminent judges.

Lord Chesterfield admired and envied him; Lord Lyttleton once loved him, and certainly had a high opinion of his classical knowledge, and happy power of applying it to charm in conversation, the most delightful, though the least valued, department of social happiness.

He was honoured by Garrick, and praised by the honest, independent Thomson, in his immortal Seasons. Speaking of Stowe in his Autumn, he says,—

And there, O Pitt! thy country's early boast,
There let me sit beneath the shelter'd slopes,
Or in that Temple, where, in future times,
'Thou well shalt merit a distinguish'd name;
And with thy converse blest, catch the last smiles
Of Autumn beaming o'er the yellow woods.
While there with thee th' enchanted round I walk,
The regulated wild, gay Fancy then
Will tread in thought the groves of *Attic* land;

*Will from thy standard taste, refine her own,
 Correct her pencil to the purest truth
 Of Nature, or the unimpassioned shades
 Forsaking, raise it to the human mind.
 Or if hereafter she, with juster hand,
 Shall draw the tragic scene, instruct her thou,
 To mark the varied movements of the heart,
 What every decent character requires,
 And every passion speaks : O thro' her strain
 Breathe thy pathetic eloquence ! that moulds
 Th' attentive senate, charms, persuades, exalts :
 Of honest zeal th' indignant lightning throws,
 And shakes Corruption on her venal throne.*

I am, Sir, your's,

BIOGRAPHICUS.

P. S. For Lord Chatham's poetical talents see his epistle to Garrick from Mount Edgcombe, in the *New Foundling Hospital for Wit*, vol. 2. p. 195. edit. 1789, and in other collections. Many others are in the hands of his friends. But let no Boswell dare to butcher him, like the butchery of poor Johnson.

TRAVELLING MEMORANDUMS,

(Continued from p. 15.)

AIX, April 3, 1787.

RETURNED to Aix,—where I had the good fortune to find Mr N——t and his family in company together, and conducted by our most obliging banker, *Monsieur Gregoire*—, we visited a cabinet of paintings, which I had not an opportunity to see when formerly here.—It belongs to Monf. ———, a very polite and agreeable old gentleman.—Four spacious and elegant apartments are filled with choice collections of books and paintings, which are arranged with singular order and taste.—The paintings are select, original pieces, of the Flemish, French, and Italian schools.—They are

esteemed the best and most valuable private collection in France.—Though no connoisseur, I passed some hours in viewing them, and in hearing the worthy owner's descriptions of them, with inexpressible pleasure.

April 12. We set out for *Montpelier*.—Near *St. Remy*, on our route there, we saw those celebrated objects of antiquity, which are fit only to be seen and admired.—I think it is impossible to convey any just idea of them by description;—at least I never attempt such descriptions.—If made by scientific men, they are dull or unintelligible; and if by men of taste, deficient.

Montpelier, April 14. We arrived here in the evening, and put up at the hotel of the *Cheval Blanc*.—There are two other hotels, none of them reputable; which is strange, as the resort here is very considerable.—This is reckoned the best.—When I desired to know what we could have for supper privately, the landlady told me there was not a morsel in the house which was not ready to be set down at the *table de l'hôte* to supper.—For change, we were very well disposed to join this casual and uncertain company.—I was surprised at the goodness of our fare; we had variety of the best things for the season, well cooked, and at one-third of the expence for a private entertainment.—The company was numerous, talkative, and merry, without much drinking;—all quite at their ease, and wearing their hats on.—We were not qualified for the rapidity of a promiscuous French conversation, and retired early, though we met with every mark of attention and politeness.—Next day I hired a pleasant and commodious private house, well furnished, in the *Jardins de Fin*, and adjoining to the walls of the town, at two louis d'ors *per week*.

In this town they reckon above twenty thousand inhabitants, and that a sixth part of them are protestants.—Their minister, *Monf. ———*, has the general reputation of a learned, moderate, worthy man, and

an excellent preacher:—he performs divine service every Sunday at ten o'clock, forenoon, in a field, about a mile from the town, without any molestation.

Montpelier has a very pleasant situation, on a rising ground, surrounded by an extensive, and for most part, fertile plain, within sight of the Mediterranean.—The air is uncommonly pure and sharp;—hurtful in consumptive cases, but salutary to weak nerves, so I find it agrees with my constitution:—though for an extraordinary continuance of near three weeks, the weather has been very cold, and the menstral winds blow very high.—The States of Languedoc assemble here in winter; when, I am told, the most noble and opulent families maintain an elegant and exemplary hospitality, without excess either in luxury or play.—The provisions are good and plentiful, but generally dear;—fresh and good fish of all kinds, particularly the *rouger*, *sole*, and *turbot*, sell at very high prices.—The states are not inattentive to the prosperity and interests of this great province;—yet they have hitherto failed to establish proper rules and regulations for the improvement of their fisheries, which are very ill-managed.—Their university long possessed great reputation, especially in the medical line.—They are allowed to use the King's gardens, which are extensive, though neither beautiful nor richly stocked with botanical plants.—In this garden *Narcissa*, (on whose death Young raves with all the romantic wildness of poetical phrenzy in his *Night Thoughts*,) was secretly buried.—The spot, a little gloomy grove, is known;—I saw it;—it is indeed a *doleful shade*.—Some generous and liberal-minded French persons of distinction lately made a contribution to erect a monumental tomb over this burial-place.—The proposal has occasioned serious contests, not yet settled.—The orthodox are greatly offended that such a monument should be erected over *unblessed ground*, and to the memory of a heretical girl.—The two grand walks, the *Esplanade*, and the

Pera, are justly admired as the finest in France;—and the adjoining great aqueduct makes, as I think, a magnificent appearance, though it is a modern work, and though my friend Smollet peevishly treats it with contempt.—The perfumes and *liqueurs* which are made here are highly esteemed all over Europe, and are the staple branch of their commerce.

In a party with Lord D——s and his family, we made an excursion to view the great canal of Languedoc, and the *Montagne percée*, the pierced mountain);—beautiful objects of high and curious art, even to those who have seen such noble and useful works in England and Scotland.—I am firm in an opinion that all minute description of such monuments of genius or public benefit are tedious and unsatisfactory.—In such cases I forbear any description, and I apply the Roman maxim, *Sentio tantum—monstrare nequeo*.

In the course of this excursion I made and set down a material observation, that there is one article of Catholic religion, which, though a hearty protestant, I would gladly embrace;—That in seed-time and harvest they work diligently, and I think, *devoutly*, in the fields, except during the actual performance of divine service.—If sense and sound reason were allowed to determine points of religious faith and duty, it would be as practicable and profitable for nations to agree in articles of faith as of commerce, which is not regulated by metaphysical arguments, nor by the art or influence of interested men, but by the obvious principles of common sense and common utility.

When at Montpellier, I had the singular happiness to become well acquainted with Lord C—lf—d, and his most amiable family.—I can in no due measure express the estimation which, in my heart, I entertain for him.—In these unpremeditated notes I set down just what I think and feel.—I think England produces some of the best—and some of the worst of mankind,—with a wonderful diversity of intermediate characters between

these extremes.—A wise and well-informed, cheerful, benevolent Englishman, does the highest honour to human nature.—Even an honest, good-natured, blunt Englishman, with sense, though deficient in knowledge and manners, is a worthy and respectable character :—but on the other hand, a low-bred, surly, ignorant, insolent, and, add to all, a purse-proud Englishman, is the most offensive animal that *crawls on two legs*, between earth and heaven.—One of their noblemen, equally famous for his wit and profligacy, says of human nature what is certainly applicable to his countrymen :

“ Man differs more from man than man from beast.”

I was surprised when informed that there were no less than nine hundred chairs used in this town.—Every lady of any fashion has her chair, and generally their own servants act as chairmen.—For great part of the year, however, the bulk of them are carefully laid up, and in general only employed when the states are assembled, and the place is crowded with good company from all quarters.—Manufactures, particularly in silk, cotton, and verdigrease, with consequential population, are here in a manifest progress.

I have made a very agreeable acquaintance with an English gentleman and his lady, occasionally here, Mr and Mrs P——n, and I have hopes to meet them again in the course of our travels.

In my vocation of collecting wherever I go, curious articles of natural history, I have been successful here, and have seen several good collections.—I have made some precious acquisitions from a *Monf. Plomd*, an eminent and experienced dealer.—His usual practice is to decline any retails, and sell only large parcels ; happily for my views he is at present overstocked, and content to sell at moderate prices such pieces as his customers choose to have.—I am barely an *amateur*, and can never rise to the character of a *connoisseur* ;—yet by practice I make some progress in distinguishing capital pieces,

and I am occasionally aided by persons of real skill.—I purchased from this man a small collection of beautiful mineral pieces, and rich chrystals, from Dauphiny and the Pyrenees.—By perseverance in this mode of traffic I may be able to form a cabinet of distinction at home, without very great or improper expence; and in the mean time I enjoy a variety of innocent and rare amusements.

In the view, that I may determine to pass next winter in Spain,—I have read Swinburne's travels with uncommon satisfaction.—I think they are written with ease, good taste, sense, and perspicuity.—Rare ingredients in modern books of any kind.

I esteem *Monf. Sabatier*, of this place, as a sagacious, learned, and honest physician.—I shall never forget his fair, laconic, and sensible advice to my nephew, who has pulmonary complaints, his words were,—“*Allez! Allez!*” “*Il ne faut pas rester ici; souvenez vous toujours de le*” “*conseil que je vous donne, beaucoup de menagement, et fort*” “*peu des remedes.*”—“Depart! depart! this climate is” “improper for your case; but pray remember the ad-” “vice I give you. You cannot take too much care of” “yourself, nor can you take too little of medicines.” This doctor gave me a simple receipt for an inflammation of the eyes, which, as it proved very successful, I set it down for the benefit of others.—“Bathe them fre-” “quently with rose and plantane waters, in equal” “quantities.”

Cete. I took up my residence for about a week at *Cete*, as a convenient situation, from which I could easily resort to, and try the famous mineral waters of *Bulleruck*.—*Cete* stands on a peninsula in the Mediterranean, about twenty miles from *Montpelier*.—Great part of the territory lying between those towns is very barren.—The village of *Frontinian* lies on this road, within five miles of *Cete*. It is remarkable for the rich wine called *Frontiniac*, produced in its neighbourhood, and for its very unhealthy situation, occasioned

by neighbouring marshes, which, in hot summers, infest the inhabitants with mortal distempers. Sometimes the surviving people abandon it, and return again in winter.

The situation of *Cete* is beautiful,—on the bottom of a hill which is cultivated, inclosed, and covered with vines to the top.—The access to the town has a singular appearance; and is finely romantic.—We pass by a handsome and very extensive bridge, which crosses part of a great sea lake issuing from the Mediterranean.—The harbour and port of *Cete* is a work of extraordinary solidity; and it is the most commodious and useful in the gulph of Lyons.—Their trade in Languedoc wines and brandy is very considerable.—They have also a great manufactory of tobacco, which employs from five to eight hundred men, women, and children.—*Burnet, Durnos, and Co.* are the most eminent merchants. Their cellars and warehouses are of greater extent and conveniency than any I ever saw. I had a letter of introduction to Mr Burnet from Mrs A——n, an excellent member of our British society at *Hyeret*.—I had my credit on Mr Burnet from my banker at *Marseilles*.—He is a native of Scotland, yet has no intention, or desire to return home.—No wonder, he has been settled here in a prosperous course of business for more than twenty-five years, and is married to a deserving French lady, by whom he enjoys a good land estate, near *Lunnelle*.—He is, however, on all occasions remarkably attentive and obliging to the British people, without any of the vile distinctions between south and north, which are only kept up by persons who dishonour both.

During my stay here, I happened to meet with two captains of trading vessels from the Frith of Forth: I was very highly pleased with their spirit and conversation.—I visited their ships, and they dined sometimes with me.—I set down from their information a few particulars which I do think material, or interesting.—

Their names are Grey and Greig. They had both served in the British navy, during last war.—I am convinced that such men are better qualified to give true ideas of facts and characters than persons of rank in the service.—They are not so liable to the influence of party connection.—They express plainly and bluntly the sense, and sincere opinions of our honest tars.—Under such favourable impressions of them, confirmed by their natural, and unaffected manners, I listened to their informations, as curious and important.—They “said the public disgrace and punishment inflicted
“on an inglorious admiral, in the former war, was
“of great service.—They freely censured some of our
“admirals who served in the last war. Without any
“partial favour for Keppel, they roundly and severely
“blamed Palliser; and were clearly decided in opinion
“that if the two admirals had united in brave and vigorous
“exertions we should have obtained a complete and
“great victory.—They bestowed no encomiums on
“Graves. Their favourite heroes were Kempenfelt,
“Hood, Douglas, and captain Young.—They said
“the best and most serviceable sailors in the world,
“undoubtedly are the British, the Dutch, and the
“Norwegians; that the French and other nations
“are now in a course to rival them; that the Czarina
“could never have formed a respectable fleet if she
“had not had the sagacity to engage, and employ British sailors, particularly admiral Greig, and an English carpenter, whose name I do not recollect;
“that she wisely encouraged, rewarded them liberally,
“and committed to them the whole direction and
“charge of her naval affairs.”—It was with pleasure, and I own, with a sort of national pride, that I heard some French merchants of my acquaintance very frankly express their esteem for those two British sailors;—they said they were distinguished in the port for their strong ruddy complexions, and stout make, but still more for their proper, and regular behaviour.

(To be continued.)

*Defects of the Laws of Great Britain in certain Cases,
pointed out, with a View to their Improvement.*

To the EDITOR of the Bee,

SIR,

THE imaginary case (though, for ought I know it may, perhaps, be a real case), put by your correspondent, Mr. Hairbrain [vol. iv. p. 317.] brought to my recollection two *real* cases that have actually occurred in the history of this country, which tend to show that it is either a matter of great difficulty to devise laws sufficient to guard against all sorts of crimes, or that something very defective prevails in the legislation of this country, since very glaring enormities may be committed, not only with impunity, but may even be allowed to pass without reprehension. As you, Sir, seem to have national prosperity much at heart, which can be best promoted by having the lives and property of every individual perfectly secured from injury, where no transgression of the law has been incurred, I doubt not but you will give the following observations a place in your useful miscellany, that the public, being through its extensive circulation, generally informed of these important facts, may devise some mode of obviating such glaring abuses of power in future.

The first of the two cases I shall here mention is that of VALENTINE MORRIS, Esq; late Governor of St. Vincent, as written by himself, and published by Hooper in London, in the year 1787, the truth of no one *item* in which narrative has been, or it is believed, can be impeached. The evidence, indeed, of the principal facts are established by undoubted documents in the publication referred to. The case is shortly as follows:

In the year 1772 Mr Morris was appointed Lieutenant Governor of St. Vincent's, it being then subordinate to the government of Granada. His conduct in the discharge of that office having been approved by his majesty, the island was made a separate government, and Mr Morris received a commission as governor of it, in the year 1776.

During the time of his being lieutenant-governor, he had frequently acquainted the governor of Grenada of the very defenceless state of the island. There appears to have been a shameful, and dangerous deficiency of every article of ammunition; many batteries and forts were without guns; there were not six gun-carriages in the island sufficient to bear the weight of a gun, much less to permit it to be fired; and all the powder and balls, if collected together, not sufficient for a supply of two hours, in case of necessity; and every thing else respecting the fortifications, and military arrangements, in an equally ruinous, and neglected state. *Mr Morris had orders from home to put the island into a state of defence.* He did so. The necessary expences in repairing the old, and erecting new buildings, have not yet (1777) been paid, though it has not even been alledged that any part of his conduct was blameable, or improper. Mr Morris sent his bills to the treasury, and, although they were allowed, yet they still were left unpaid. Under what pretext this could have been done, it is difficult to conceive; but so it was that this worthy man, prosecuted by his creditors, was obliged to sell his property for half the value he had formerly refused for it. His family reduced to want, and he himself worn out with anxiety, and overwhelmed with difficulties, died without having been able to obtain payment of his just claims upon government.—The facts respecting his public conduct do not depend upon Mr Morris's bare assertions alone, they are confirmed by the original letters which passed between him and the secretaries of state, and lords of treasury. The

sale of his valuable, and beautiful estate of Pierce-field, near Chepstow, so well known by every traveller of taste, he thus feelingly mentions: "This place, he says, where I had for many years lived in prosperity, respect, and credit, and where, after a right discharge of the duties of public life, I had fondly hoped to have passed in tranquillity the years that might remain, and have breathed my last;—this place was at length forced to sale for 26,100*l.* for which, at former periods, the different sums of 46,000*l.* 47,000*l.* 48,000*l.* and once 52,000*l.* had been offered; an event which would have been effectually prevented, had I received only an inconsiderable part of what was then, and still is due to me by government." Is the administration of a country where such things can be done, I ask, under proper management?—Are the individuals of that nation duly protected in their rights and properties?" What heart can read the following pathetic passage without being melted into tenderness, or roused to indignation! The man who wrote it is now at his rest. Born down with calamities, he sunk into the peaceful grave,—and we are left to mourn his fate. "My sovereign, says he, and my country, are welcome to the faithful services I have, in fulfilling the duties of my public station, performed; yet may the injustice I have received, and the fatal consequences of it from the unfeeling, insensible state of all political public characters, with the official former delays, *arising from temporary necessities* end in me †? I have known prosperity, with the honours and comforts of it. I have suffered adversity, with its train of neglects and mortifications; I have, however, with

† And are the necessities of the state, such as to silence the claims of justice?—Curbed be the æconomy that consists in defrauding the creditor of his due! Is it to furnish money to pay *election bills* that such stoppages are made? Must the innocent be sacrificed, that favourites may be forced into the national senate, against the will of their constituents?

becoming fortitude, learned the lesson of resignation, and shall, while I live, endeavour to practise the duties of it. May surviving friendship sympathise in my misfortunes! May the truths I now publish rescue my character from undeserved obloquy! May my country respect that conduct ever dictated by the most earnest wish to serve it! and may my sufferings, and the cause of them, serve as beacons to warn others from letting the warmth of their public zeal overheat their judgement, or make them insensible to the cooler dictates of private prudence! May they thus escape that fatal wreck, not barely of their fortunes, but also of their hope, health, character, and happiness, I have unhappily incurred!

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum."

Setting humanity aside, we may observe, that if instances of injustice of this sort be tolerated, it is easy to perceive the consequences must be fatal. When a man in the exercise of public trust finds that expences must necessarily be incurred, will not this example stare him in the face, and arrest his operations? at the same time, it must be owned, that a military person thus circumstanced will feel himself in an unhappy situation.—If he did not make all possible exertions, that money might have enabled him to make, after having received orders for it, he may be tried for improper conduct, under the pretext that his draughts would have been honoured at home.—In every point of view, the conduct of government, in this instance, must be condemned as a like, impolitic, mean, inhuman, and unjust. If there is no method of easily bringing those to justice who are guilty of such enormities, our laws are certainly defective, and ought to be amended.

The second instance I am to adduce of severe oppression unredressed, is of a very recent date, and must be fresh in the recollection of every one that reads this memoir. It is the case of Mr. *James Sutherland*, who,

on the 17th of August last, was driven from despair of ever obtaining redress, deliberately to put a period to his existence, in the presence of his sovereign; hoping, that from the manner in which the act was perpetrated, it would make such an impression on the public as to tend in some measure to check the practice of such enormities in future.

Every person knows that Mr. Sutherland had drawn up, and caused to be printed before his death, a pamphlet containing an account of his case, which he gave orders should not be published till twelve o'clock on the fatal day he had resolved to perpetrate this desperate deed. That pamphlet is now before the public, and from it the following facts have been gathered:

Mr. Sutherland had experienced all the horrors of a close and rigorous confinement, while in the execution of his duty, and the immediate service of the state; he was still subject to the deplorable effects of a dangerous malady, occasioned by his imprisonment in a foreign goal; he had been suspended from an honourable and lucrative employment, without the assignment of a reason, by the strong arm of power; after having obtained the verdict of a jury of his countrymen for damages, means were still found to deprive him of his right; for seven long years he had petitioned, in vain, every branch of the executive government of his country, from the monarch on the throne, to the clerk of the under secretary of state; from affluence he was reduced to misery; from respect and esteem, to a commiseration bordering on contempt. He was pursued by the harpies of the law; he was overwhelmed with the distresses of a sickly wife, and a helpless family looking up to him for physic and for food. He tried every method in his power to extricate himself from this distressful situation, and at last was obliged to succumb.

The publication consists chiefly of papers which Mr. S. had written in vindication of his character, or to obtain redress, and which he has here collected together, with an evident intention, in the first place, to preserve the memory of himself from public blame; and, in the next place, to operate as a preventative to similar ills in future, by rousing the attention of the public to the circumstances that drove him to despair.

The first paper that occurs in this collection is the copy of a petition from Mr S. to the King, dated 21st April 1785, stating that he had already addressed Lord Sydney, one of the principal secretaries of State, but that he had not been honoured with any answer, and praying for immediate relief.

The second is the copy of a humble memorial to his Majesty. In this he states the circumstance of his suspension by General Murray in 1780; his two actions brought against that gentleman, in each of which he obtained a verdict in his favour, &c. &c.

The third is a letter to Lord Sydney, recapitulating his specific claims for money expended in the service of government, requesting a remuneration of his losses and expences, &c.

A variety of petitions and memorials, presented to the King at St. James's, Kew, and Windsor, in 1785, 1786, and 1789, follow in succession. All of these proving ineffectual, Mr Pitt, Mr Rose, Mr Steele, Dr Prettyman, Mr Smith, and Mr Nepean were applied to in succession: some of these gentlemen seem to have heard him with a frigid apathy, and others never condescended to take the least notice of his applications. In this situation Mr S. had recourse to Mr Alderman Sawbridge, who, in the last session of parliament, was about to present his petition to the House of Commons, but withheld it on being informed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he would enquire into the nature of his pretensions, and, if well founded, recommend him, in his Majesty's name, to the consideration of the House. Relying now on the merits of his

cause, our author expected a speedy period to his calamities, and was particularly assiduous in spurring on the minister to his promised enquiry; but, although he besieged his house daily, he could never obtain access, or even procure a single letter in reply, either from him or any of his secretaries. In this dilemma Mr Sawbridge read his petition to the house, and mentioned a day in which he intended to present it in form; but, on that very day, we are informed, Mr. Pitt gave assurances that the petitioner should be attended to at the treasury, and that *he might depend upon dispatch*; in consequence of which the ill-fated petition was once more withdrawn.

After an interval sufficient to afford ample room for investigation and enquiry, Mr. S. wrote another letter to Mr. Pitt, stating his urgent necessities, and affirming that he had not the means of *subsisting longer*, as he had hitherto supported himself by selling *every little thing of value that he had, and now had not any thing more to sell*.

“ Let me then, Sir,” continues he, “ implore you by every thing you hold dear, *to preserve him from the effects of despair*; a person, who, since he is driven to egotise, holds himself up as a man of worth and honour; who has never merited any thing of his king and country so much as favour and reward; who has ever been ready to prove this, and to remove wrong impressions, if any charge had been openly made against him, and he could have obtained the satisfaction of being called upon for a defence.—And permit him to add, that his feelings, *were he not a father*, would have inclined him *rather to have perished*, than to be importunate in this language*.”

* Is not this language improper? Why should a man subject himself to serious evils to avoid demanding what is justly his due from any person? I have never been able to conceive a good reason why a man should not demand, with equal peremptoriness, the debts due to him by the public, that he would be blameable in not demanding from an individual. If there is greater difficulty in forcing payment from government, which it would seem there is, these difficulties ought certainly to be removed.

All this, however, still produced no effect. The following memorandum, dated August 5th, 1791, closes the publication, and clearly shows with what deliberation he had resolved upon the fatal catastrophe:

“ The machine seems to be worn out by anxiety, vexation, and disappointment. The tree must fall! I have not a wish to prop it after the appearance of this publication. But I have a most ardent one, that in the next session of parliament there may be *a virtuous majority in the House of Commons*, who shall think that I have fair claims on government; and that I have a right to transfer them, as I hereby do, to my daughters Mary and Louisa Sutherland.

JAMES SUTHERLAND.”

I wish not, Sir, to occasion disturbance by an appeal to the passions, but I wish that such momentous facts should be known and attended to by all. As you yourself profess, so I declare, that I have no prejudice against any of the persons concerned in these transactions to induce me to take pleasure in exposing them; but neither have I such partiality as to wish to screen any person from public obloquy who may deserve it. I have perused the whole of this account with indignation and with horror, as I believe every other person must do. I wish it to be made as public as possible, that those in power may feel, that if it even should be possible to evade the lash of the law, it is not possible to avoid public obloquy when they disregard the dictates of justice and humanity in the discharge of their duty; and as your work has a circulation in foreign countries, I am particularly anxious this paper should appear in it, so as that these facts may be known in the uttermost parts of the earth, and be preserved to futurity. On these accounts I must request the favour that you will not refuse it a place. What is done already must, I know, remain—but the consciousness of a public exposure, may, perhaps, prove some sort of check to a similar conduct in future.

I wish not, however, that the matter should rest here. If my weak endeavours could have any influence, it should be exerted to induce the members of legislature to devise some mode by which similar neglect of duty in the public servants of the crown should be obviated in future*. At present, it would seem, from these rugged facts, that no mode of relief that is easily accessible by a man in ordinary circumstances, but that of petitioning parliament to interfere in their behalf; and this, I would warn those who have the direction of the executive power in this nation, seriously to guard against, as it may tend to introduce a very dangerous innovation in the constitution of this country. This, I take it, can only be guarded against by never giving any *real* cause for that interference. Too often of late have individuals been compelled to resort to this dangerous remedy; and it is in the recollection of every reader, that many persons have thus obtained justice who could not otherwise have had it. This, I repeat it, is a dangerous innovation that every wise minister will study to guard against, and that every well-wisher of his country will wish to avoid.

HAMPDEN.

P. S. Whether the family of Mr. Morris has got any indemnification from government since his death, I know not; but the public have been informed, that since the death of Mr. S. Mr Pitt has had a conference with his son, and has granted a suitable compensation to the wife and daughters of that unfortunate sufferer.

* Mr. S. in the introduction to this pamphlet, solemnly requests the electors of Great Britain to instruct their representatives to procure a law, affording relief to every person whose character may be aspersed in a petition to the House of Commons, and also an act of parliament, "to assure the communication of the Royal will *by his Majesty's ministers*, to every subject who may in future present such a petition to the King."—I pretend not, however, to say in what way the evil complained of may be best remedied, all I presume to assert is, that it is a serious evil, that loudly calls for redress.

On Grandeur. An Ode.

*Sapius ventis agitur ingens
Pinus ; et celsæ graviore casu
Decidunt turres, feriuntque summos
Fulmina montes.*

HOR.

How varied lies the chequer'd scene !
DUMIET* capt with snow ;
While humbler smiles in vernal green
The sun-clad vale below ;
Gay Spring her cheering task performs,
Regardless of the wintry storms
That sweep proud Ochil's lofty side ;
And shelter'd from the whirling gale,
Secure smooth glides the winding sail
Down FORTH's meand'ring tide.

Alas ! how like the chequer'd state
Of Man's contrasted lot !
The storms that beat at Grandeur's gate !
The lowly shelter'd cot !
Disgusted pride with wintry brow !
Contented labour at his plough,
Still cheer'd by health's unclouded beam ;
While safe from passion's whirling tide,
Calm hope and resignation glide
Down life's untroubled stream.

To meditation's musing mind
Still moral pictures rise ;
Ambition dash'd by fortune's wind,
When towering to the skies ;
Exalted beauty doom'd to move
In climes unwarm'd by genial love,

* One of the highest of the Ochil Hills, near Stirling.

Whirl'd by the storms of vernal strife !
 While nurtur'd in some vale obscure,
 The humbler fair-one blooms secure,
 The mistress and the wife.

But late, in strength and beauty's prime,
 The towering PLANE arose ;
 Proud o'er STIRLINA's height sublime
 It wav'd its mantling boughs ;
 At eve, when Vesper gilds her star,
 The trav'ler spied it from afar,
 And, raptur'd, wonder'd where it grew ;
 Fond fancy plac'd its magic height
 'Midst regions streak'd with golden light,
 And skies of azure hue !

Embosom'd in the bank below
 That courts the southern breeze,
 The humbler HAWTHORN's doom'd to blow
 'Mid kindred shrubs and trees :
 Obscure, it drinks its balmy dew,
 Unmark'd, save by the moral Muse
 That nightly breathes its rich perfume.—
 How weak is *Grandeur's* empty shew !
 Ambition, mark !—the PLANE's laid low ! *
 The HAWTHORN's left to bloom.

*Written on the Spaw called St Bernard's Well,
 near Edinburgh, on Lord Gardenstoun's Birth-
 day, 24th June 1790, by an American Lady.*

CHARM'D with such acts as mercy's self may claim,
 Acts that will spread thro' time thy deathless name ;
 Oh ! GARDEN, e'en the stranger's humble muse,
 Thus strongly charm'd, will not her aid refuse,

* The cutting down of this beautiful tree, which gave universal dissatisfaction, occasioned the present Ode.

Though in the simplest strain, to pour her lay
 In warmest wishes on thy natal day ;
 That ev'ry choicest bliss may e'er attend
 The mind which misery calls her *kindest friend*.
 Hail day ! belov'd, when sorrow's tearful band
 Receiv'd from Heaven a patronizing hand ;
 While nature fix'd his birth 'mid summer hours,
 To crown such worth with tributary flowers ;
 Then, Flora, let this day propitious wear
 The sweetest garland that adorns the year ;—
 Here, Zephyr, ev'ry flow'ret's fragrance bring,
 To breathe around the patron of the Spring ;
 And numbers here who court Hygeia's charms,
 While grateful pleasure ev'ry bosom warms,
 Shall hail the hand, which, while it plenty show'rs
 To bliss the land, adorns Hygeia's bowers.
 May then no cloud's dark veil the day obscure,
 But Phœbus here his brightest radiance pour !
 Emblem of GARDEN's bright expansive mind,
 Where Bounty has her warmest beam confin'd !

Sonnet.

Now o'er the world hath sober ev'ning spread
 Her ebon tinctur'd veil—the stars appear—
 The smiling moon in mildest beauty clear,
 As on my hand I press my pensive head.

While not on earth is heard one echoing tread,
 Look thro' the southern uprais'd window near,
 Down on my cheek tear courses after tear,

I think on absent friends, on pleasures fled.
 Now all their actions living in my sight,
 Awake new mournful pleasures in my soul,
 And every moment gives a fresh delight.

Do not such joys my fair one's mind controul ?
 They do ;—I see th' assenting tear descend,—
 And she will love this trifle for the friend.

ELLA.

Hints to Manufacturers on Spinning of Combed Wool by Machinery.

IN the last number of this work, some hints were given respecting the spinning of carding wool, by machinery. I now proceed to make some observations on the spinning of *combed* wool by machinery also.

I have not heard that any thing of this sort has been yet attempted; it seems to me to be very practicable, though the process must be, in several respects, different from that practised for carded wool.

A mode of spinning combed wool prevails in Aberdeenshire, in Scotland, that I have not met with any where else, which suggests a hint for spinning combed wool by machinery: yarn spun in this manner is there called *slab*. A common wheel that was used for spinning cotton, before the introduction of Arkwright's machinery, was used for that purpose. The spinner takes in her left hand a *tape** of combed wool, enters that to the point of the spindle, and with the right hand turns the wheel; as the spindle is turned round, the thread is drawn out by pulling back the left hand, exactly as in spinning carded wool from *rows*; and when it is twisted enough, the wheel is turned a little back, and it is then put up on a pirn with great neatness and expedition: this manœuvre is repeated very fast, the thread, at one time, being drawn out only about a yard at farthest, the tape of wool being held loosely in the hand; so as to be brought gradually forward till the whole is spun, when another is joined to it, and so on. In this way a woman will spin easily, in the course of a day, about double the quantity of yarn she could do in any other way. The thread is generally little twisted and *slack*, from which circumstance it has obtained the denomination of *slab*.

* A *tape* of wool, in the technical language of the manufacturer, is a long connected parcel of wool, in the state it comes from the combs. Several of these are usually put up together, so as to make a pound weight, and twisted a little, in which state this kind of wool is usually offered to sale.

In this way combed wool might easily be *roved*, so as to make it fit for being afterwards spun by the machine; and if, in the roving, the thread were left pretty thick, a woman might do a good many pounds in a day; so that although this operation were done by the hand, it would still be spun, *for the greatest part*, by the machine, and must of course prove a great acceleration of work, and considerably diminish the expence.

But it does not appear to me a matter of any difficulty to contrive a machine that would perform even this operation; and as it is well known, that where machinery is employed, the work is always performed with much more accuracy than by hand, I think some pains should be bestowed to effect this. The only difficulty that occurs in this department, is that which arises from the unequal thickness of the tape of wool. As that comes from the combs, it is thickest at the middle, and goes tapering smaller and smaller, till it comes to a point at either end. When spinning by the hand, this form is not attended with any considerable inconvenience, because it is easy to let it slip faster or slower through the hand, as shall appear to be necessary; but this cannot be done by a machine, which must go steadily and equally along, in all parts of the operation. But if the tape of wool, after it comes from the comber, were drawn out by hand in the middle, so as to make it smaller there, and were brought to an equal thickness by joining another tape to the former, where the two ends are small, so as to bring the whole to an equal thickness; and were that winded up, it might then be passed through the machine, which might be so set, that at every pull of the thread, an equal quantity might be given off, so as to leave the thread, or rove, of an uniform thickness, and a perfectly equal twist throughout its whole length.

In this way, yarn, of no great degree of fineness, might be spun from combed wool, at one operation; but where it was wanted of a superior degree of fineness, this first operation should only be considered as a finer kind of roving. The degree of twist will in this case, however, be much greater than is required for roving, where it is to be drawn over again. But, by passing it through the untwisting machine, it may be opened to any degree that the circumstance of the case shall require; and in this way, combed wool may doubtless be drawn to an exceeding degree of fineness, and at an inconceivably small ex-

pence ; and as it is very easy, in all cases, to have the yarn untwisted to any degree that may be wanted ; and as, where the wool is long, a very small degree of twist is sufficient to make the thread cohere enough for being wove in a light loom, where the soft Shetland wool is employed, fabrics of wool may be thus made, not only much finer than any that have ever been seen, but even softer in texture than the finest Indian shawls, which have hitherto been unrivalled by any European manufacturer.

[N. B. If not disappointed by the engraver, the figure and description of the untwisting machine will be given in our next.

Farther Observations on the Effects of Frost on Corn.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

IN looking over No. 6th, Vol. IV. of your useful publication, I observed an extract from my statistical account of the Parish of Linton, relative to the effects of the harvest frosts.—Whether from inaccuracy in my original report, or inadvertence in those who prepared it for the press, I find a conclusion set down, without a precise statement of the facts from which that conclusion is deduced.

It is in the last paragraph of page 218. immediately after the sentence, *it is certainly the case with oats*. The facts, which I either did state, or ought to have stated in confirmation of the preceding averment, as to the frost having *little effect on the ears of oats, when their juices were watery, and had not attained to the consistence of thick milk*, are as follow: “ In the year 1784, the frost was on the night betwixt the 17th and 18th of August—I had that season a field in the crofts adjoining to the village of Linton, sown with Polish oats, a species of oat about three or four weeks earlier than the Tweedside oat, then commonly used ; the uppermost grains (which in every species of oat ripen soonest) had in that field attained to the consistence of thick milk ; these were all frosted four or five grains down the head ; the grains below these all ripened well. The rough bear in the contiguous fields, which might be about equally forward with

“ the top grains of these oats, or possibly from their being a
 “ more tender grain, was so totally destroyed, that the straw
 “ was afterwards used for thatch, without ever being thrashed.
 “ The field of Polish oats was indeed remarkably thick and
 “ strong ; the ripening of the undermost grains might there-
 “ fore have been in some measure accounted for from the
 “ shelter afforded by the uppermost grains : but as a proof
 “ above all exception, that the frost *does not greatly hurt*
 “ *oats while the juices in the ear are watery*, there were several
 “ adjoining fields sown with Tweedside oats, whose best ri-
 “ pened grains were no farther advanced than the undermost
 “ grains in the field above mentioned, which all ripened very
 “ well, though equally exposed to the frost.”

In addition to the confirmation derived to this supposition from Dr Roebuck's experiment, it may be subjoined, that in spring 1783, some farmers in a muirish parish not far distant, who sowed seed oats of their own growth 1782, upon their good seed, as they conceived them to be, running short, sowed some ends of rigs with the out-dightings, which last produced the best crop*.

In page 219. in the last paragraph but one, and first line, for *crops cut and stacked*, read *crops cut and booked*.

In looking over the account of Linton, in the volume of reports published by Sir John Sinclair, I perceive several things published, which perhaps might as properly have been omitted : these are of little consequence ; some corrections, however, are absolutely necessary to render the account applicable to the real state of the parish ; and these I beg you would insert, as I know no more proper mode of communicating them to the readers of the statistical account of Scotland.

In page 126th of the volume published by Sir John Sinclair, article *soil*, line 1st, for, *the soil of the hills is clayey*, read, *the soil of a few of the hills is clayey* ; line 5th, for *the remaining part*, read *the greatest part*.

* The same thing happened in Aberdeenshire that season, as I had particular occasion to remark ; a phenomenon that then surprised me not a little, as I never before had had an opportunity of seeing frosted corn of any sort. *Edit.*

In page 135. last sentence of the uppermost paragraph, read thus: " Old breeding ewes from the hills sold to the butcher at " Martinmas, weigh from six to nine pound averdupoise per " quarter, yielding from three to five pound tallow, as taken " out by the butcher; such as have had no lambs the preced- " ing season, yielding more in proportion, both in weight of " carcase and tallow."

In page 139. article *Corn farming*, after mention of Magbie-hill oats, it should be subjoined that these are the *red oats*, now commonly sown by Dawson in Frogden, he having got the seed originally from Linton.

In page 140. *dele* the two notes at the foot of the page, which show the abridger to have been no Scotsman.

In page 142. article *Population in 1791*, the inhabited houses in the village of Linton are said to be 59 instead of 95, and the total inhabited houses in the parish are made by consequence to be 178, instead of 214.

I am,

Yours, &c.

CHARLES FINDLATER.

Manse of Newlands, }
26th August 1791. }





1st The Nightingale.
2nd The Redstart.

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, October 5, 1791.

HISTORY OF THE NIGHTINGALE,

[With a PLATE.]

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

BEING compleatly tired, as I imagine all Europe will be very soon, of impertinent, coxcombical, mountebank human orators, I beg leave, in prosecution of my noble and useful design of describing the Art of Idleness, to present your readers with my lucubrations concerning the Nightingale; an orator of greater eminence, fame, and antiquity, than Demosthenes, and who will continue to charm the world after all our present nonsense with the Millenium, the Crusades, the Pope, the Devil, and the Pretender, shall become topics for the researches of antiquarians.

I shall begin with describing his person. His size is that of the linnet, in shape he resembles the robin red-breast. His head is small, his eyes large, with a pale iris. His beak dusky coloured, slender, and pretty long. His head, neck, and back, of a greyish brown. The upper part of his wings have a tinge of red, of which there is more about the tail. His throat, breast, and belly are of a pale whitish grey. His tail is white underneath, and the thighs are also covered with white feathers; but the knees are surrounded, as it were, with rings of grey. With respect to his country, the bountiful Father of the universe, who is attentive to the amusement and comfort, as well as the sustenance of his children, has given the Nightingale a patience of diversity in climate, that he may attend the only creature capable, by a sensible soul, of discriminating the superior beauty of his song.

Credo Deum immortalem sparsisse animos in corpore humana
ut essent qui terras tuerentur, quique cœlestium ordinem contem-
plantes imitarentur Eum vitæ modo atque constantia.

This also extends to every thing that lives, and moves, and has a being, in proportion to sensibility, regulated in every circumstance by perfect adaptation!

In most of the temperate regions of the earth, where there is abundance of food and shelter, and a connection, uninterrupted, with highly cultivated and inclosed lands, the Nightingale is to be found. I believe he has not been heard in Britain north of the Trent, or the Wye at the utmost. In Scotland, Ireland, and Wales he is unknown. Scotland and Wales might, in the course of ages, obtain him as a guest, by colonization naturally produced from conjoined cultivation; but as I think it will in time sufficiently appear *that the Nightingale is not a bird of passage*, Ireland must transfer him from Britain or from the continent.

The Czar Peter the Great is said to have introduced, at a considerable expence, various singing birds to his gar-

dens, in the neighbourhood of St Petersburg or Moscow, and among the rest the Nightingale ; but I could never obtain any authentic confirmation of this common assertion, though I took some pains to enquire ; and I agree with Mr Daines Barrington in doubting the truth of it, because, as he says, the trouble and expence seemed unnecessary, as most of our singing-birds are common all over the well cultivated spots of the north-eastern district of Europe, Denmark, Sweden, and Russia.

Mr Henshaw informs us that the Nightingale in Denmark is not heard till May, and that his notes are not so sweet or various as in England*. Fletcher, (who was minister from Queen Elizabeth to Russia,) says that the Nightingales in that part of the world have a finer note than the English Nightingales.—See the Life of Fletcher in the *Biographia Britannica*.—Which of these two is most to be relied upon is doubtful ; and it will be well if any of your correspondents can settle this moot point.

The Nightingale's favourite food is the little earth grub, or maggot, but he can vary his food, as all other birds can, from necessity.

According to the season, the Nightingale builds her nest, and hatches from the end of March to the middle of April, or even to the end of that month or beginning of May. The thorn-brake, or low thick bushes, are the ordinary situations of the Nightingale's nest. Nature having given this bird a superior stile of singing, and a turn for singing in the dark, has protected him from injury as much as possible, by modest plumage, and a retired disposition. The Nightingale sings commonly for about two months ; and not being heard or distinguished again till the return of the spring, naturalists, who are generally stronger in the cabinet than

* Birch Hist. R. Soc. vol. iii. p. 189.

in the field, and, like all scientific men, lazy enough, and very fond of hypothesis, tell us that he is a bird of passage. If, says the excellent judge Barrington, a bird which is supposed to migrate, passes almost under the nose of a Linnean naturalist, he pays but little attention to it; because he cannot examine the beak, by which he is to class the bird. Thus, I conceive, adds he, that the supposition of the Nightingale being a bird of passage arises from not readily distinguishing it when seen in a hedge, or on the wing.

When I lived at Walcot, in the neighbourhood of Bath, I was often convinced, as were several of my acquaintance, that we observed the Nightingales in winter hopping about the hedges in that neighbourhood; but I cannot say that I ever shot any of them at that season of the year, though I have heard the bird catchers say that they got them sometimes with other small birds, during rigorous winters. Perhaps this hint may induce people in the south-west parts of England, where Nightingales are common, to enquire in this manner about their frequentation during the winter.

Mr Barrington assures us, that he was informed by a person well acquainted with this bird, that he has frequently observed them during the winter; and the treatise entitled, *Aidologue*, published at Paris 1751, informs us, that they have been frequently seen in France during the same season.

Sir Robert Sibbald, in his natural history, asserts the Nightingale to have been heard in Scotland. His patriotism may have fascinated the good Doctor's ear, or he may have blundered like a good honest Scot, who, being joked by an Englishman on the want of the sweet Nightingale in Scotland, "Hoot awa maun," said Sawney, "have na wee the Nightingale, think ye, in Scotland?" "Have you faith," said John, "pray what kind of note has he? Is it like our Nightingale's note?" "I dinna ken," said Sawney, "as to that maun, but

he cries Whoo ! whoo ! whoo ! and I fancy just as cleverly as your's do †."

The nightingale is perhaps one of the most local of all singing-birds ; he seldom flies above thirty yards, and in general keeps very close among the hedges and bushes. At night he perches on a branch, and begins his love elegies, or sprightly madrigals, to his mistress. His tone is mellower than even the sweet, harmonious, plaintive wood-lark : his execution and compass superlative ; and there is in the round of his song a delightful intermixture of sprightliness that prevents his beautiful love-ditty from cloying the ear with too much unction.

But it is not only, says the noble historian of the Nightingale, in tone and variety that this bird excels ; he sings, if I may so express myself, with superior judgment and taste. I have therefore commonly observed that my Nightingale began softly, like the ancient orators, reserving its breath to swell certain notes, which by this means had a most astonishing effect, and which eludes all verbal description.

This circumstance I have often with high pleasure observed in Somersetshire. I was a great admirer, at that time, of old Pitt, afterwards Lord Chatham's speaking

† Mr Macquhirter of Inglisgreen, near Edinburgh, bleacher, a gentleman, though no professed naturalist, who is yet so attentive an observer as to allow nothing to escape notice that comes within the sphere of his observation, informs me that he has for several years past been much delighted with the singing of a bird which is heard all night long, during a certain part of the year. It first, he says, begins to be heard some time in April, and continues to sing till about the end of June. The note he says is soft, plaintive, and varied ; but he does not describe its powers with all the rapture that poets express in describing their favourite Philomel. It is a small bird he says, of brownish plumage, it is seldom seen. Whether this be the true Nightingale, as seems to be probable, or if it be only the Red-start, which, from its singing also during the night-time, has been called by some the Mock-Nightingale, I shall not pretend to say ; but it seems impossible to deny that it must be either the one or the other ; a little time and experience will soon discover which it is. As no buildings are near, nor thick woods, it is against the Red-start.—*Edt.*

in the house of Commons, and I used to think he had borrowed his manner from the Nightingale. When I afterwards heard his son, young Pitt speak, I thought his oratory more resembled the notes of the sparrow, continually yerking at the American war ‡.—So much for orators, and the oratory of the Nightingale. I come now to consider with what degree of probability, and in what manner Nightingales may be transferred from one country to another.

The appearance, or rather the song of the Nightingale *which leads to his being observed*, is expected by the bird catchers in the neighbourhood of London the first week of April. At first, few but cocks are taken, which I ascribe to the circumstance of their being easiest distinguished by their note, and being most upon the wing in pursuit of the females. They build their nests generally about the middle of May, in quickset hedges, from whence they seldom remove at any distance. They do not congregate, or pack, like other birds that are supposed to be birds of passage, in March and October, but hop from hedge to hedge, and are very local, not only in England, but wherever this charming bird is to be found in Europa, or Asia.

Now these circumstances acknowledged by Mr Penant, and all the other advocates for the migration of Nightingales seem sufficiently to prove the reverse of their supposition: more especially when we reflect that if Nightingales left England in flocks to the continent, they would be observed there in winter, and in returning, would as naturally take their occasional flights to Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, as to the spots they are seen to frequent. *The great disease that afflicts our literary republic is system. We need a Lord Bacon at*

‡ Perhaps some of our readers will think, that like Mr Pitt with the American war, or Mr Hume with the clergy, or Mr Gibbon at the Christian religion, our ingenious correspondent does not dislike to go a little out of his way to get a hit at the minister.

least once in a century, to whip forth the buyers and sellers of silly hypotheses out of the temple of Apollo. O! for a thong, and an arm fit to use it, that I might drive them to their cloysters, and teach them to remember that they are but school-boys!

The plan I would venture to recommend for the introduction of Nightingales into any country, is to remove a large quantity of the eggs, keeping them in *Balneo mario*, or by artificial regulated heat, according to the measure necessary for bringing forward the process of incubation, and placing them in the nest of the Red-start, and other congeners of the Nightingale; bringing down a competent number of the finest caged Nightingales to place in the fields where the eggs are to be hatched, together with a number of Canary birds that sing the finest round of the Nightingales song with such agreeable intermixture of other notes as may be most agreeable to the undertaker.

Then, not to depend upon this arrangement alone, let a number of nestling Nightingales be brought aboard a ship from London, under the care of hen sky-larks as nurses; the most ready and tender for this purpose, with plenty of Nightingale meat, to be made daily by an attentive hand that is hearty in wishing success to the undertaking; and taking care to have two or three capital cock Nightingales from Covent Garden market, or from the bird-men in Holborn and elsewhere in London, from which the nestlings might receive the proper instructions. I have not the least doubt, Mr Editor, that the delightful Philomela might be brought to abound in every part of Europe where food, shelter, and climate admitted of their existence. What a proud circumstance it would be for the teacher of the *noble Art of Idleness*, could he have the pleasure to hear the melodious Nightingale in his native country, brought thither by his invitation, and applauded by all the dying swains, and love sick maidens of the Land of Cakes! How much more delightful would it be to hear our

dear bucks, and bloods, and our gentle macaronies chattering over their cups, of this little Nightingale, and that little Nightingale, than of this little beagle, and of that little beagle! and then indeed an elegant young idle gentleman of distinction or fortune, might, if starting the first Nightingale in Scotland or Wales, or in the spirited Ireland, with propriety assume the title, *the noble enviable title, of a buck of the first feather!* and so much am I persuaded of the success of my proposal for the introduction of these feathered choiristers into new countries that I shall beg leave to present you with a prophetic song on the subject from a Nightingale in Glastonbury Thorn, sung on midsummer evening 1786, which may perhaps not be unacceptable to those who like to attend to the music of the groves.

Begin, begin the evening song,
 The wood-lark is asleep,
 There's nought but silence here among
 The owls that watch do keep :
 Save that athwart the mirky aisle
 The filthy bats do flitt,
 Our little offspring to beguile
 While on the spray they sit.
 Ah! sweetly sweet is this repose,
 My Philomela fair!
 One touch of thee can cure the woes
 My heart, that harbour there.
 Renew, renew the nightly song,
 The wood-lark is asleep,
 The eglantine that winds along
 My thorn, my safety keeps.
 They say the people here are slaves,
 And gull'd by filthy priests;
 Come let us cross the briny waves
 And fly their filthy feasts
 But ah! alas! the briny sea
 Wou'd brave our strongest wing;
 Come then to Scotland let us flee,
 To men and freemen sing.

I am, Sir, with continued attachment to the delightful ineffable art of idleness,

Your well-wisher, and humble Servant,

ALBANICUS.

ACCOUNT OF THE ISLAND SAMAR.

(Continued from p. 54.)

THE deportment of the men is easy, open, and affable; the women are gay and lively, and possess in some degree the flippancy of the coquette, without, however, being inclined to the vice of prostitution. The Indian has little propensity to labour, but he cannot be accused of avoiding it when any emergency renders it expedient. Vanity, and lying are the only immoralities I could discover among them; and though I have not found them prone, either to jealousy or theft, they seemed, however, considerably keen in their dealings with the Europeans. I am disposed to believe that sensibility of mind in the Indian is particularly nice and delicate, having observed in the exercise of his friendships a warmth and openness of heart which I have not discovered, in an equal degree, in any other people. A salute, the common token of love between the sexes, and of affection among relations, is here preceded by a gentle aspiration of incense on that part of the face to which the lips are meant to be applied.

The Bissayan Indians in general discover a natural taste for music, and a propensity to the mechanic arts; and I am convinced nothing but want of experience prevents their attaining a very high degree of eminence in these pursuits. The flexibility of their nerves and muscles may, perhaps, scarcely be credited; but the fact is, that they handle small objects with their feet with equal ease and dexterity as we do with our hands, and can exert a force in pinching with their toes, not less than that of a European when he pinches with his fingers. With the assistance of his camplian alone, the Indian makes his fiddle, or guitar, cuts down the largest tree in the forest, and shapes, and excavates it into the form of a canoe. At

one time it is used to carve on the bamboo designs of no mean effect, for the ornament of his house; at another, it is turned against the enemy for his personal defence. This, in short, seems to be the only edged tool known, or at least in use among the Indians of Samar.

Among their productions of art, the Indian mat merits particular notice, which is a species of manufacture of such fineness, that a piece of six feet went easily into my pocket. It is executed in various handsome designs, and painted with very lively and elegant colours, which they have the art of extracting from different trees.

Silk, cotton, and the fibres of the fig-bannan above mentioned, furnish the Indian with the raw materials of his best manufactures in cloth. He makes a kind of lace, and embroiders his silk stuffs with surprising elegance and address. Each family is provided in a loom for its own domestic purposes. At sea you find the Indian a ship's carpenter, sail maker, and caulker; on land, a rope maker and ship builder; but though he exercises occasionally, almost all the mechanic arts for his own amusement, or convenience, he is never found to prosecute any one of them exclusively of the rest. I was informed, but with what degree of certainty I will not pretend to say, that even the art of writing with a kind of pencil on the leaves of the cocoa tree, once existed in this island.

They have a custom, implied in the word *massarer*, of cracking the joints, and pinching the flesh in different parts of the body, which, as they conceive, tends to promote the free circulation of the blood, and humours. That of rubbing the childrens limbs with oil is likewise common, usages, which as they are not peculiar to them, but prevalent over the whole continent of Asia, may be presumed to have long been found to have a salutary effect. In place of cupping they use severe pinching on the neck and shoulders, which they

continue to exercise until they are satisfied they have attained their end. They let blood by means of incisions made in the skin; and as to physic, they are wonderfully versant in the virtues of many flowers, balms, and plants, the use and application of which they owe to nature, and their own experience alone.

The hair of both sexes is remarkably fine, particularly that of the women, which they are accustomed to comb with great care, and to annoint frequently with oil of the cocoa nut, in order to strengthen, and render it of a deep black. Their nose is short and depressed, but the nostrils are by no means dilated like those of the negroes; nor, indeed, have I often observed an ugly or ill favoured woman in those islands. The features are small, not always regular; but they have beautiful eyes, and faces uncommonly interesting and expressive. They use pitchers of the bamboo, and some of them have a light sort of leaf hat, similar to what is worn by Indians of the first distinction. One of the most beautiful objects, in my opinion, that can meet the eye of a painter, is a fine young Indian on her way to fetch water from the well. The large leaf hat, the delicate arrangement of the thin transparent petticoat, and a light bamboo pitcher in each hand, bestow a surprising grace and dignity on her person. In the remote parts of the country, and especially at a distance from the missionaries, persons of both sexes appear almost naked.

The natives of Samar have fish in plenty and variety from their rivers, as well as the sea-coast, the latter of which supplies them with very elegant pearls; and their manner of fishing, from its singularity, merits notice:—There is a certain pea, of an intoxicating quality, named *coco*, found in the island, which being reduced to a powder, is scattered by the Indian, at low-water, all over the sand. Upon the return of the tide, the fish which have eaten the bait, appear floating in a state of insensibility on the surface of the water,

and are picked up with ease, in what number the fisherman judges convenient.

The iron-tree, ebony, and dying-wood, grow in every part of the island; and gold dust is found in some quantity in its more interior regions; but the monks, in their concern for the morals of the people, have been careful to get this dangerous branch of traffic into their own hands. The Spaniards themselves are forbidden to reside in the Indian villages, under pretext of protecting the innocence of the natives against the corruption of European manners. The council at Manilla, however, has lately restrained, by various regulations, the exorbitant power assumed by the clergy in those islands.

It would require the elegant genius of a Virgil or a Theocritus to make the reader conceive the natural advantages of Samar. The country, of all those I have yet seen, or that perhaps exist in this planet, the most eminently beautiful. How often have I envied the Bissayans, (for, except the natives of Luconia, it is thus they name all the inhabitants of the Philippine isles,) the happy retirement of this little insular paradise! If in the province of Tegas the mind of the traveller is constantly roused and agitated by objects of grandeur and magnificence, in the island of Samar he is soothed and enchanted with an elegant and rich display of simple beauty. In the former, the eye flits in succession over Nature's stupenduous works, from the noble, but gloomy forest, to the widely extended plain, bounded by the distant horizon; and thence to rivers and lakes, the noise and vast surface of whose waters are formed to impress the mind with the awful majesty of the Creator. In the latter are the emanations of his goodness, springs, fountains, and rivulets; landscapes elegantly composed by various blendings of woods and lawns, curiously intersecting each other, as they seem to float over the varied aspect of the soil. Woods, it is true, without the extent and magnitude of the Te-

gan forest, but which, enlivened by the blossoms of spring, or loaded with their autumnal fruits, yield balsam for the wounds, and odours for the refreshment of the natives. The wild bee-hive hanging from the branches; the air highly perfumed with a very fragrant species of wild jessamy, and the sweet roses of China; every thing, in fine, presents Nature in adolescence, such as she exists before the folly and caprice of man have learned to disfigure or efface her native charms.

Here I was often at a loss to determine which had the most claim to my admiration, the beauty of the country, or the gentle and innocent manners of the natives. Having continued my travels half round the globe, I had become less addicted to local and illiberal partialities, and, in some measure, sensible how little the narrow prejudices of education accord with the sentiments of an open and candid mind. Hence, if I envied the Bissayan's country, I was still more covetous of his society, of that sincerity visible in the whole tenor of his conduct, and, above all, of that calm serenity of mind but little exhibited by the more polished circles in modern Europe. I surveyed, with satisfaction, the smallest of Nature's works, which the levity of a refined imagination has in no instance taught the Bissayan either to impair or destroy. My heart was enchanted in my attendance on their religious worship, which is accompanied with a very simple, but interesting and expressive species of music. Under these and similar impressions, I became particularly disposed to acknowledge the goodness of divine Providence, which had led me, as it were, by the hand through my wanderings; and my thoughts being turned towards religion in general, I gave more attention than usual to the consideration of my own.

For the Bee.

' GLEANINGS OF BIOGRAPHY.

1st. *From the Diary of Mr James Melvil, Sept. 1582.*

BUCHANAN.

"DURING the vacance my uncle, Mr Andrew, principal of the new college, Mr Thomas Buchanan, provost of Kirkhaldie, and I, hearing that Maister George Buchanan was weakly, and his history in the press, passed over to Edenbrugh anes eirand to visit him, and to see the wark. Whan we cam to his chalmber, we fand him sitting in his chaire, teaching his young man that served him in his chalmber to spell AB, EB, IB, &c. After salutation, Maister Andrew says, "I see, Sir, you are not idle." "Better this, (quoth hee,) than stealing sheipe, or sitting idle, whilk is als ill."

Admirable man! Fine image of all that was valuable in the philosophy of Greece and of Italy!

2dly. *Scougal, Son of Scougal Bishop of Aberdeen,*

AUTHOR of that beautiful little book entitled, *The Life of God in the Soul of Man*, was born at Saltoun in East-Lothian, where his father was rector, to whom bishop Burnet succeeded.

Scougal, the father, was a truly pious and excellent man, and trained up his son in the habits of virtue and holiness of life, which appeared afterwards, both in his conduct and in his writings.

He was in strict habits of friendship with Dr Burnet, Andrew Fletcher of Salton, and all the best men of his time; but abstracted himself much from the bustle of ambition, and dedicated himself, as every good clergyman ought to do, to the duties of his function.

After he had gone through his career of parochial charges in the country he was made professor of divi-

nity in King's College, Aberdeen, where he ended his days in a room now shown in the steeple of the church of St. Mahar. He became sentimentally enamoured of a married lady in Aberdeen, with which fruitless passion he was so much moved and hurt, that he secluded himself from the world, and became so corpulent, from want of proper exercise, that his corpse could not be got down stairs from his apartment, and was forced to be let out by the window.— There is a portrait of him in King's College hall at Aberdeen, which ought to be engraved for his works. And there is likewise in the same hall a portrait of the Bishop; the countenance strongly expressive of the sweetness and devotion of that amiable and worthy prelate, whose tomb, well executed in very good taste, is in the cathedral church of Old Aberdeen.

A. L. B.

Hints respecting the New Settlement at Botany-Bay.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

IN a late number of the Bee you informed us, on official authority, that previous to the 18th of March 1791, two thousand and twenty-nine convicts have been shipped from England for New South Wales. We also learned, that prior to the 9th of February in the same year, the expences of this establishment amounted to three hundred and seventy-four thousand pounds. Besides this sum we are told of contingencies, "that cannot as yet be stated." It was for the minister's credit to make his project appear as wise as possible, and to suppress a part of this enormous expenditure to serve the temporary purposes of debate.— We may safely affirm, that the contingencies referred to make no trifling sum. Six additional months fall now also to be added to the account; and it is not unreasonable to compute

the total expence, up to this date, at six hundred thousand pounds. Each of these unhappy persons has, therefore, cost this country three hundred pounds Sterling: and supposing, that on an average, they survive transportation for twenty years, the total expence of each convict will, at this rate, amount to perhaps about fifteen hundred pounds Sterling. It may indeed be alledged, that before that time the country will be reduced to a state of cultivation. But a circumstance mentioned by the governor sufficiently shows the great distance and uncertainty of such a prospect. It cost him and a party five days to penetrate thirty miles into the desert; and the fatigues they underwent during this journey were excessive. In the same paper you tell us, that eighteen hundred and thirty additional convicts were then under orders for shipping. It is impossible to estimate, with any degree of certainty, what may be the annual expence of this colony before the end of the eighteenth century. By a very moderate computation we may suppose, that before ten years elapse, the colony will receive at least ten thousand additional convicts; and it is but fair to compute, that of the whole number by that time transported, ten thousand will then be alive, and maintained at the expence of Government. Now, if each of these gentry shall cost us only thirty pounds a year, the whole annual expence will amount to three hundred thousand pounds. At the end of twenty years it may rise to double that sum. Will the British nation, with its eyes open, walk into such a gulf? Had each of these criminals been discharged from the bar, it is very unlikely that he would have committed one tenth part of the mischief by abusing his liberty at home, which he entails on us by enduring slavery abroad.

These premises, or at least by far the greater part of them, are unanswerable, and we must infer that the Botany-bay scheme is the most absurd, prodigal, and impracticable vision that ever intoxicated the mind of

man. A poor fellow steals a watch, or a horse worth five or ten pounds. The loss is paltry, but mark the consequences. His trial, in Scotland at least, costs the public, between expence and personal trouble to individuals, perhaps, four times that sum; and then, his transportation, the devil knows where, and the devil knows why, perpetuates a burden upon his country to the amount of ten times the loss incurred by the robbery and trial put together. In the modern state of things, a criminal does not deserve that title for breaking a shop, or a stable; but, because, if he escapes the gallows he plunders the public treasury of three, or five, or fifteen hundred pounds. Transportation to North America was, in comparison, but a ride before breakfast. New South Wales is at the distance of six or eight thousand leagues, if we include the windings and turnings necessary on the passage. In the former country, the price of a felon, when landed, was sufficient to pay the expence of his voyage. But in the latter, a convict, the moment we set him on shore, is enrolled with many other *right honourable gentlemen* in the respectable and useful band of *national pensioners*.

There is not an old woman in the three kingdoms who could not have suggested a better plan. A bride-well in each county, on the plan of the *Panopticon**, and under a few obvious regulations, would effectually dispose of convicts; and instead of costing the nation an enormous annual expence, would produce a large annual revenue. Mr Pitt has, however, pledged his character and abilities in support of this project, and he will, no doubt, adhere to it with his usual *firmness*, till the period of his resignation. If he shall continue in office for ten years longer, every fool in this country will see what every man of sense sees already. By that

* This is a prison on a new and improved plan, by which prisoners can be kept entirely apart from each other, without a possibility of corrupting each other, or being maltreated themselves, see vol. 2. p. 77. and vol. 3. p. 152.

time the project will be treated with universal execration, as a millstone hanging at the neck of public credit; and the new minister, as a specimen of his importance, will immediately abandon the settlement. But indeed its invaluable inhabitants may very possibly save him that trouble, by cutting the throats of their task-masters, and embarking on board their shipping in the bay. Could this *revolution* be accomplished without bloodshed it is in itself an event extremely desirable.

TUMBLEDOWN.

Sketch of Three Luminaries of the Romans, by the late Sir James Foulis of Colinton, baronet.

To the EDITOR of the Bee.

THE book entitled *Gulielmi Bellendeni Scoti, Tria Luminaria Romanorum* is a very extraordinary performance. Cicero is introduced as if he had spoken or written the whole from beginning to end. It is divided into sixteen books. In the first seven is contained a very concise abstract of the Roman History, from the foundation of Rome till its 647th year, in which he was born.—Then he becomes more particular in the account of his own times, and enlarges very fully on all that happened after his first appearance in public business. He gives an account of the most remarkable of his orations, and epistles, and the occasions on which they were written, as also of such of his philosophical works as have come down to us, and of some other pieces that are now lost, ending with a letter he is supposed to have written to *Octavianus*, afterwards named *Augustus*, which letter, however, is supposed to be spurious. On the whole, there cannot be a more complete history of the life of Cicero, and of the tumultuous times in which he lived, and in part of which he was a very considerable actor; and all this is delivered in the language and words of Cicero himself.

It is very remarkable that Bellenden has copied Cicero so closely that I verily believe there is not an

expression, perhaps not a single word in the whole book that is not to be found in the writings of Cicero. It is written a good deal in the manner of the pieces called Centos, but without the incoherence usual in such pieces, this being in an easy and flowing style, and I dare say, there never was, and perhaps never will be a Cento of such length, and on matters of such importance, in which the excerpts from the original author are inserted with so much propriety.

I am persuaded that he must have been able to repeat by memory the whole works of Cicero, as it is scarcely possible that the life of one man could suffice to compose so large a work by turning over the leaves of the book to find the various expression and *ipsissima verba* suited to the various occasions on which they could be properly used. For this purpose he must have had them all treasured up in his mind, from which, as from a rich store-house, he could take out each particular, according as he found occasion.

Some few notes, well worth reading, are interspersed by Bellenden. As no authors are mentioned in the book, but only referred to in the margin, I cannot precisely determine who are the other two besides Cicero, who are entitled the *Luminaries of the Romans*, unless they be *Plutarch* and *Ovid*, to whom he often refers, and particularly to the *Fæsti* of the latter.

The fate of this book has been extraordinary. Bellenden lived in the Court of James the first of Britain, and is said, in the title page, to have been *Supplicium libellorum magister*; after his death the MS. fell into the hands of one *Toussains du Bray*, who printed it at Paris, and dedicated it to our K. Charles the second, in the year 1663. He would probably keep some few copies, but transmitted the rest, said to have been a thousand, to London. The ship, on board which they were put, was wrecked on the passage, and only four or five copies, sent by other conveyances, ever reached Britain. One of them was in the hands of a gentleman in Lon-

don about thirty years ago, who refused twenty-five guineas for the use of it to a person who wished for it. The gentleman dying, it was sold to Mr Payne the bookseller at London, with the rest of his books *. Conyers Middleton being fortunate enough to get another copy, knew the value of the prize, and made his own use of it. For here he found the life of Cicero in his own words, and every thing properly digested in chronological order; so that he had little more to do than to take the trouble of translating, and publishing it in three large octavo volumes, under the title of the life of Cicero, by which he procured money, and reputation to himself.

Trusting to the rarity of the *Tria Lumina*, he expected to pass undiscovered, and never once mentioned Belenden, to whom he was indebted.

The Hon. Mr Baillie of Jarviswood, one of the Lords of the Treasury, in the late King George the First's time, had a copy of the *Tria Lumina*, which his grandson, with the frankness and humanity becoming a man of quality, and a man of letters, communicated to the Earl of Buchan, before he obtained the copy from Mr Payne, from which I have deduced these remarks; and cannot but express a sincere wish to see a new edition of this remarkable book, the intrinsic merit of which, approved and confirmed by the reputation that Middleton acquired from his plagiarism, render it so worthy of republication; or rather, as one may say, of being rescued from obscurity."

Thus far Sir James Foulis, a man of singular merit, whose exceeding modesty hid him from the notice of the public.

* This book belonged to Alexander Strachan Esq; late deputy paymaster of the forces in the reign of George the first, and translator with Johnson and Mallet of the first six books of Virgil's *Æneid*. Lord Buchan, on Sir James Foulis's information, applied to Mr Payne, and bought the book for the S. of S. Antiquaries.

In his early days he dedicated himself to a learned profession, and was candidate for the chair of a professorship in the university at Edinburgh: afterwards he became an officer in the army, and served with great honour and gallantry, both in India and Portugal. Had he remained in the former, he would probably have occupied a great and lucrative situation, which his high spirit and nice sense of military honour prevented him from obtaining. After the peace he left Portugal, and retired to his paternal acres of Collinton, where he dedicated himself to study, and the correspondence of the learned.

He was eminent in philological learning; and with a view to the more perfect understanding of ancient languages, acquired in his old age the Gaëlic, and applied his knowledge of it to the examination of the Arabic and Greek primitives, and the primitives of the other ancient languages of Europe. May these lines remain, and be handed down to distant posterity as a memorial of the friendship of

ALBANICUS.

On the Emigrations from Scotland.

To the Editor of the Bee,

SIR,

WE boast of our philanthropy as individuals, of our wisdom as politicians, of our skill as manufacturers, and of our knowledge as merchants; but I would fain wish to know how all these epithets can be applied to a nation who can quietly sit still, and, with an unconcerned apathy of mind, behold without emotion, many hundreds of their best people leaving their homes for ever, and going elsewhere to find that subsistence that their own native country refuses them? That these emi-

grations are going on at the present moment is well known.—Were we possessed of our boasted philanthropy, would we not feel that the people must be unhappy before they could once think of adopting such violent measures?—Could we then behold it without endeavouring to discover the cause of this uneasiness, and trying to alleviate it?—That the strength of every nation, both in respect to furnishing men for the operations of war, and in affording a revenue at all times, depends upon the number of our people, cannot be denied :—If then we were politically wise could we see the vital sources of internal vigour sapped at its very foundation, without attempting to discover a cure for this mortal disease, and applying it?—That manufactures require hands for carrying them forward and that the wages to be given must be augmented as the numbers for carrying on these operations diminish, every one knows.—That this scarcity of hands must both retard the operations, and enhance the price, are self-evident propositions.—Were we therefore skilful manufacturers we would be sensible of the evils that this deranged œconomy is about to bring upon us, and would therefore exert every possible power to prevent it.—As merchants, was our knowledge as great as we are willing to assume to ourselves, would we not perceive, that by diminishing the operators, and enhancing the price of goods, the *export* trade must be retarded ;—and by taking from the number of consumers, the *import* trade must be decreased?—From this plain induction then, I am forced to conclude, that were our merchants, and manufacturers, and politicians, really possessed of that knowledge, and skill, and wisdom, with which we idly compliment them, or were our people at large endowed with that philanthropy we boast of, all these orders of men would unite with one voice in deprecating the evil with which this nation is threatened, and in trying to discover the causes of it ; that a speedy and effectual remedy may be applied to it.—While, therefore, we sit still and quietly behold these things, without bestir-

ring ourselves, every person of sense, who hears us applying such complimentary epithets to ourselves, must see that we are a parcel of idle chatterers, who deserve to be pitied for our ignorance, and despised for our vanity.

I, as an individual, would attempt to enquire into the cause of this great evil; but what encouragement has an individual to exert himself, when he sees others disposed to disregard what he says?—The causes are assuredly not extremely difficult to be assigned; nor does the cure exceed the bounds of possibility.—But so long as every man is disposed to sit still, and instead of lending his aid to forward the work, shall be contented with saying, *Be ye warmed*, and, *Be ye clothed*, things must be suffered to go on from bad to worse.—Till, therefore, I shall see some appearance that the public at large are likely to be interested in this discussion I shall leave it;—regretting only that I should have lived at a time when heaven and earth was moved, and the whole state thrown into the most violent convulsions to remove a fancied evil, which had no real existence; and which, when removed, as Paddy would say, was not removed at all;—while this most serious of all evils did not attract the smallest share of the public attention.

I am, Sir,

A lover of Philanthropy, an admirer of Political Wisdom, an encourager of Manufactures, a friend to Commerce, and, consequently, a decided opponent of

Island of Lismore,

EMIGRATIONS.

Sept. 12, 1791.

Character of Peter the Hermit by Mr Gibbons.

HE was born of a gentleman's family, (for we must now adopt a modern idiom,) and his military service was under the neighbouring counts of Boulogne, the heroes of the first crusade. But he soon relinquished the sword and the world; and if it be true, that his wife, however noble, was aged and ugly, he might withdraw,

with the less reluctance, from her bed to a convent, and at length to an hermitage. In this austere solitude his body was emaciated, his fancy was inflamed; whatever he wished he believed; whatever he believed, he *saw* in dreams and revelations. From Jerusalem the pilgrim returned an accomplished fanatic; but as he excelled in the popular madness of the times, pope Urban II. received him as a prophet, applauded his glorious design, promised to support it in a general council, and encouraged him to proclaim the deliverance of the Holy Land. Invigorated by the approbation of the pontiff, his zealous missionary traversed with speed and success the provinces of Italy and France.—His diet was abstemious, his prayers long and fervent, and the alms which he received with one hand he distributed with the other: his head was bare, his feet naked, his meagre body was wrapt in a coarse garment; he bore and displayed a weighty crucifix, and the ass on which he rode was sanctified in the public eye by the service of the man of God. He preached to innumerable crowds in the churches, the streets, and the highways: the hermit entered with equal confidence the palace and the cottage; and the people, for all was people, was impetuously moved by his call to repentance and arms. When he painted the sufferings of the natives and pilgrims of Palestine, every heart was melted to compassion; every breast glowed with indignation when he challenged the warriors of the age to defend their brethren and rescue their Saviour: his ignorance of art and language was compensated by sighs, and tears, and ejaculations; and Peter supplied the deficiency of reason by loud and frequent appeals to Christ and his mother, to the saints and angels of paradise, with whom he had personally conversed. The most perfect orator of Athens might have envied the success of his eloquence: The rustic enthusiast inspired the passions which he felt, and Christendom expected with impatience the counsels and decrees of the supreme pontiff.

The Effects of Spring.

[Competition Piece.]

Translated from Virgil's Geor. B. II. l. 315.

NEC TIBI TAM PRUDENS, &c.

LET none prevail with thee, however fam'd
For wisdom, to disturb th' obdurate earth
While Boreas blows. For Winter then with ice
Fetters the glebe, nor suffers the chill'd root
To fasten in the ground. But let your vines
Be planted during the soft-blushing Spring,
When storks abhorr'd by trailing snakes return :
Or when the colds that march in Autumn's rear
Are felt, what time the raging heat retires,
And ere the sun has reached his wintry goal.—

But Spring the forest, Spring the wood arrays
With leafy verdure : and in Spring the soil,
Swelling with moisture, seeks profligate showers.
Æther, all-powerful fire, in genial dew
Descends into th' embraces of his spouse,
The gladden'd earth, and propagates the race
Of fruits that nourish, and of herbs that heal.
The pathless unfrequented brakes resound
With tuneful birds ; while sportive herds indulge
In rites connubial : and to vagrant gales,
Favonian, now the cultur'd fields expose,
Their furrow'd bosom. Dewy rains distill,
With intervals of sun-shine. Herbage dares
Arise in presence of the new-born day :
Nor fears the vine-branch the tempestuous south,
Nor icy arrows of a northern blast ;
But, joyful, bids her buds unfold, and waves
Her wanton foliage to the sportive breeze.

Such were the Seasons, when the recent world
Appear'd in early prime : such, then, the course

Of happy days and years. Spring ever reign'd ;
 And her dominion was in every clime ;
 Nor suffer'd interruption from the rage
 Of wintry Eurus. Cattle then, both herd
 And flock, drew vital breath : th' unyielding race
 Of human-kind rose from the stubborn glebe :
 Wild beasts the forest, and the starry host
 The firmament, in bright battalion, rang'd.—
 Yet could not earth, exhausted all and weak,
 The labour of creation still endure,
 Unless refresh'd with intervals of rest,
 Or respite interpos'd, between th' extremes
 Of heat and cold : and if indulgent heaven
 Knew or regarded not her feeble frame.

Stirlingshire.

PHILERGON.

The Choice of a Wife.

For the Bee.

YE Gods attend !—I long for honey,
 And all the sweets of matrimony ;
 But as I won't run helter-skelter,
 I wish to bargain for my halter.
 Assist, ye powers, who guide thro' life,
 And give a tender virtuous wife.
 No forward mynx, with giggling air,
 Whose tongue an inch or two might spare ;
 Lavish of dress, yet never clean,
 Intent to see and to be seen ;
 Whose heart beats *pat*—produce a man.
 Shed tease me as she plagues her fan.
 No formal prude, with decent smile,
 Emblem of innocence and guile.
 No squeamish Miss, who can't bear health ;
 With coffers fill'd with store of wealth.
 Tho' jolly, blooming, fair, and fat,
 An *heiress* must be delicate.
 I want not flippant vain conceit,
 Nor those who won't at table eat ;

Or, by the jing, I'll be her sentry,
 Whene'er she steals off to the pantry.
 I hate malevolence and pride,
 Tho' wealth sits dangling by her side.
 Keep far from me a damsel stupid,
 Or make me deaf, thou devil Cupid!
 Nor give, to make me most unhappy,
 The lass whom Scotsmen call a *taupy*.
 I want not passion ever blind,
 Nor one who leaves her sex behind.
 Tho' blest with millions—what are riches,
 If I must feel she wears the breeches?
 Send me a pair of eagle's wings,
 To shun those who shun sacred things.
 That heart must be devoid of good,
 Who flies from heaven and gratitude.
 But she who tastes of love divine,
 Sure never could prove false to mine.
 Keep to yourselves Miss Affectation,
 Or she who flights for provocation;
 Like yonder beauty, lo! she comes;
 A murmur hastens thro' the rooms;
 Look at the pretty smirking creature,
 Well placing ev'ry shadowy feature;
 For 'tis the glass that gives her art,
 And paint and patches make her smart;
 Behold she smiles—now scarce is civil—
 The angel now—and now the devil.
 On all she deals some mark of favour.
 The *puppies* gape, but none will have her:
 Her lot will be, if married, cares;
 If not, the jilt must walk up stairs,
 And take her stocking, primly sitting,
 And mind her monkey or her kitten.
 The fly coquet whom grace adorns,
 Would fill my dreams with horns, horns, horns.
 Give me no languid squeamish creature,
 Wearied for ay, reverse of nature:
 But let me choose—The girl for me,
 Must wear *auld-fashion'd* modesty;

Sweet, kind, and virtuous, ever pleas'd,
 Nor e'er with jealous humours seiz'd ;
 Soft, winning soft, not prone to speak,
 Where blushes deck the lovely cheek ;
 Accomplish'd, innocent and gay,
 Devoid of airs, nor bent on play ;
 Who could a household well attend,
 Yet be a comforter and friend.
 She would excuse my foibles all ;
 If large, her love would make them small ;
 Whose every word some good instills,
 With learning that ne'er saw *novels* ;
 Winning always by her yielding :
 Heav'n ! what a castle am I building ?
 Give me fortune, give me favour ;
 Do be kind, and let me have her.
 When marriage springs from such a source,
 Ne'er will the world behold divorce ;
 But joy will conquer envious strife,
 And peace be kept 'twixt man and wife.

A PHOENIX-HUNTER.

To the Editor of the Bee.

S I R,

IN addition to the observations upon the Bridewell Act, which I formerly used the freedom of transmitting to you, and which you was so indulgent as to insert in your Miscellany, page 21. permit me to say, that laying an assessment upon the tenantry, and a heavy assessment is laid for the *erection* of this public work, is a grievance, because it is making those who have only a temporary connection with the county, during the short period of modern leases, liable in the expence of a work that may last for ages.

The next step, I suppose, in oppression, will be to make the tenants pay the expence of the building of churches !

At the time this bill was under discussion at one of the county meetings of the heritors, it was asserted, from a respectable quarter, that there was a *probability* that this Bridewell might become a *profitable* concern : That the monies arising from the labours of the confined would be more than sufficient to support them, and thence a revenue would arise ; for such had turned out to be the case in former Bridewells in England. Should ever this happen to be the case with the Edinburgh Bridewell, is it at all probable, that the tenantry will be received into a participation of these profits ? If not, how unjust is it to make them erect, or contribute towards the erection, of a work which is to add to the revenues of their lairds, or to the *good town* only ? Should they even be allowed a share of the profits, which is very improbable, the injustice now done them would be still more glaring, because the tenantry of that day, although the successors of those of the present, would in few instances, or perhaps in no instance at all, if the time was remote, be the heirs or assignees of the present ; of consequence the revenue arising from the monies exacted from the present tenantry would operate as an inducement for others to compete against them for the possession of their farms. Thus their own money would be made to operate against their own interest.

The proprietors are not, however, in this predicament : if any revenue should ever arise from the Bridewell, it will go, if not to the heirs, at least to the assignees of the present race of lairds, and as such would be a real advantage to their families.

It ought to be adverted to, that the tenants who have leases of their lands, took them in the idea that no addition to the rent could be laid upon them during the currency of these leases, without their own consent. But these Bridewell assessments are real additions to the rent, for they are laid upon the land itself, which the tenant cannot divest himself of ; so that he has not even the semblance of an option ; unlike to the generality of revenue taxes, which, although strictly exigible upon certain commodities or luxuries, yet as no man is absolutely obliged to use them, so it becomes optional with a man to subject himself to the payment, or not, as he pleases. Let it be also adverted to, that although the lairds, very properly indeed, took care to be informed of every particular relating to this Bridewell, before they consented to subject themselves to

the *heavy* assessment of a shilling each per annum ; yet no notice on this subject was ever given to the tenants, notwithstanding that they have to pay a vast deal more, in proportion, than the lairds themselves ; nor will the greater part of them have so much as *heard* of the nature of this imposition, untill it becomes leviable upon them ! How does this conduct correspond with the idea generally entertained in this country, that in it no man's property is liable to be legally wrested from him without his consent ?*

The farmers in this county have long been in the practice of assessing themselves annually in a considerable sum for the support of their police, by their society for prosecuting rogues. The benefit thence resulting to the country in general, has doubtless been great, and is, I believe, generally acknowledged. One would naturally have thought, that in any new scheme for the correction or punishment of rogues or vagabonds, as the farmers already pay *more* towards that purpose than other people, they would, in consequence, have now been subjected to a *less* assessment. For from this, by the Bridewell Act, they are to pay not only a vast deal more than their lairds, (poor men !) but even much more than any other description of people whatever !

* In addition to what this sensible correspondent has so properly urged on this head, allow me to add, that, by a standing order of the House of Commons, no bill can be introduced there until the nature of it has been fully stated to the public, in an advertisement properly promulgated, many months before the bill is to be introduced, in the view that every person who is to be affected by the bill may have an opportunity to appear at the bar, and state their objections to it before it be passed. But it does not appear that the tenants of Mid-Lothian were previously advertised, in any way, of the clause intended to be put into that bill for assessing them to the amount with which they are now burthened ; so that they had no opportunity of watching over their own interest before the House. If so, it would seem that, either intentionally or accidentally, the order of the House had been virtually eluded, though it was nominally complied with ; so that this permission to tax them in an unjust manner has the appearance of having been at least improperly obtained. *Edit.*

I see no clause in the Bridewell Act permitting the farmers to participate in the management of this Bridewell, or its funds. Indeed it is unnecessary. No profit that ever may thence arise will fall to their share. And as this is an age in which is manifested a spirit of levelling and reducing to a kind of equality the various distinctions of society, so, probably from the same principle, it has been wisely provided in this business, that as the lairds have taken the *burden* of contriving it upon themselves, together with the great burden attending the management or dividing the profits; so the tenants have the *honour* conferred upon them of paying the greater part of the annual expence; thus reducing the functions of both parties more nearly to a par. I have the *honour*, Sir, to remain

A TENANT.

County of Edinburgh, }
 Sept. 20. 1791. }

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

To me it has often been matter of wonder, that men of the first education and genius should mark professions as the standard of abilities, and treat mechanics and peasants (I mean in opinion) as if their business formed their intellectuals. Station no doubt, and independence, give full force to the exertions of the mind, and must make superior one of two, supposed to have equal faculties; but this alone is the difference, and the criterion to fix upon. I allow custom has an amazing effect on all, and stamps, as it were, the manner which distinguishes all professions; and from these appearances, it would seem philosophers draw their conclusions. These observations started to my view on reading your Bee, Vol. IV. page 17. where your traveller is surprised at a barber having so much *wit* as to observe *his* judgment to get quit of a long beard. The traveller's fanciful description may be justified in the tradesman he met with; but he forgets *that all the world is a stage, and all the men and women merely players!* That a sensible barber

never allows his judgment or wit to be superior to his employer's ; in fact, in that respect we are really actors ; for whatever may be our observations, there are few want discretion. I am, Sir, &c,

A BARBER IN EDINBURGH.

September 5. 1791.

Remarks on some English Plays, continued from page 80.

The Devil to Pay—by Charles Coffey, Esq;

COMICAL actors in Jobson, Nell, and the Lady, make this piece laughable on the stage. In private perusal, it is low, flat, and absurd. There is one good song in it, page 68 and 69. The rest are execrable. Indeed, the bulk of this Collection of celebrated Farces, are such, that if you wish to have entertainment in seeing them acted on the stage, you should never read one of them. If you want to read theatrical pieces with taste and pleasure, you must go back to the old poets. Gay's "What d'ye Call it?" is the best modern little piece or farce, but is not to be expected in a Bookseller's Collection*. That must be suited to his own and the popular taste ; and so what good ones you have, fall in by mere chance.

The Lying Valet—by David Garrick, Esq;

WE have here a foolish plot, no natural or interesting character, and as little true original wit, or humour. Garrick, in all his pieces, copies from plays, not from nature ; and yet by his great abilities as an actor, and by his art as a manager, he gained, and long maintained, a sovereign direction over the London taste.

This sort of familiar gentleman, and pert speech-making footman, are characters very current in modern comedy ; and especially in the plays of Vanburgh, Congreve, and Cibber, but are not to be found in nature or reallife, nor in the old plays of true genius.

* When this collection was publishing, our critic advised the compiler to insert this piece, but his advice was rejected.

Proceedings in Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On the Production of Papers respecting the Convention with Spain.

Monday, December 13. 1790.

MR GREY said, no man could have more respect than himself for that part of the Constitution, which entrusted to the executive power, the determination of peace and war, and the management of treaties. Of the advantages of this arrangement he was fully sensible, in the confidence and security which it produced, and the respect which it preserved to the State among Foreign Nations. When this power, however, was entrusted, it certainly was not meant that its exercise should not be the subject of explanation. Upon this ground he founded the motion which he intended to make. In the course of the dispute with Spain, and the conduct of the negociation, circumstances had occurred which required to be explained; and it would certainly never be asserted, that the executive power was exempted from such an explanation, as it would then be a power without controul, and secure from inspection. Upon this principle he had made the motion in the former Parliament, for producing such papers as appeared to him to be necessary for explaining some circumstances in the commencement of our dispute with Spain. Now, after the process of an expensive armament, and a protracted negociation, such an explanation had become still more necessary. It was proper to inquire, whether the dispute had originally been occasioned by the ambition and violence of the Court of Spain, or the rashness, ignorance and presumption of our ministers? It was likewise proper to inquire, whether the negociation might have been conducted with less expence or delay? whether peace might have been secured upon better terms, or whether the terms that had been obtained might have been had without the sacrifices with which they had been attended? When he reflected on the propriety of these inquiries, he should not have apprehended any opposition to the motion for the evidence by which they were to be elucidated. But what was his surprise, when he had heard it intimated, and from the most respectable authority, that a majority of the House would concur in opposing the motion for producing such evidence. But whatever was the decision of the House, whatever line of conduct on the present occasion their sentiments of duty might induce them to pursue, he considered it as his duty to stand forward to move for the necessary documents; and in this persuasion would proceed to enumerate the grounds upon which he founded his motion.

He then went into a wide range of argument, to show the propriety of this measure,—stated the conduct of administra-

tion in regard to the convention of 1739, and with regard to the dispute about Falklands Islands,—showing that full information was given to the House before their approbation of measures was asked for—Without this, he contended, it was impossible for the House to judge of the propriety of the measures that had been adopted. Peace, he allowed, was preferable to war,—almost on any terms; but had this peace been the very best, instead of the worst, as it appeared to him that ever was concluded, it was still a proper object of inquiry. A measure, he contended, by which the weight of our debt, already enormous, has been aggravated, and the number of our taxes encreased. The inquiry becomes more necessary before it receives approbation when there is reason, as in the present instance, to conclude that the dispute was improperly commenced, that the negotiation was unnecessarily protracted, and that the Convention, from the conduct of ministry, was at last obtained upon worse terms, and at a much greater expence, than otherwise it might have been. In proof of these assertions, he took a review of the circumstances that had taken place during the negotiation: Administration had at an early period announced, that the Court of Spain had agreed to give satisfaction for the insult Britain had sustained; yet the armaments went on with encreased vigour. The principles with which our Court set out, had in the Convention been relaxed or abandoned; and what had been demanded as a matter of positive right, had been obtained only on the footing of a conditional treaty. In these circumstances, he contended that an enquiry was necessary before the House could approve of the Convention, and that the motion he meant to make for a production of papers was proper and necessary.

He then desired that the motion might be read from the journals for papers relative to the origin and progress of the dispute about Falklands Islands.—The motion was, for copies of all papers and propositions by Spain, relative to Falklands Islands, and the answers that were returned:

For copies of all letters and information received at the several offices, relative to acts of hostility committed by the subjects of Spain, against the British settlements upon these islands:

For copies of all demands or requisitions for satisfaction, of the answers returned, representations exchanged, and instructions sent to the British minister to the Court of Madrid. It appeared also to have been divided into three distinct motions, which had been severally carried.

Mr Grey said, he should begin with a motion similar to the first, and follow it up, if carried, with motions similar to the other two.—He concluded with moving,

“ That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, that he will be graciously pleased to give directions, that there be laid before this House, copies of all claims and representations made by the Court of Spain, relative to any settlement that has been made on the north western coast of America, and

“ to the fishery carried on by British subjects in the South Seas, together with the answers that have been given to such claims and representations, with the respective dates thereof.”

Mr Pelham, before he seconded the address, said, it was apprehended that some farther design was in view, than merely preparations against Spain.—If hostilities were still apprehended from any other quarter, and the same secrecy was equally necessary as before, which the increase of the navy establishment seemed to intimate, he should, on receiving intimation to that effect from ministry, move, that the inquiry in all its parts should be postponed till a more convenient season. That assurance not being given, he seconded the motion for the address.

Mr Wilberforce defended administration. Said that the motion could only be intended to satisfy an *idle* curiosity, or to *fish* out something affording matter for accusing the ministry. In opposing the motion, he made use of some expressions that were not thought either respectful to the House, or proper for the occasion.

Mr Wyndham analysed this speech, and with great force of irony endeavoured to hold it up to view as absurd, and the doctrines it inculcated as highly pernicious. He insisted on the propriety of that House watching ministers, and not relying on any of their assertions as proofs without examination. The security of the country depended upon it. He contended that war, bad as it always was for the nation, might still in some cases be better than a *bad* peace. The following reasons, he said, might be sufficient to make us suspect the present was a bad peace: First, we were denied the request of having liberty of inquiring into it; secondly, that created a suspicion; and lastly, that suspicion taught us to believe, that where such exist, doubt most deservedly was attached; and where we fixed doubt, the very doubt so founded, and the very suspicion so excited, in the name of reason, justified us in declaring that such a peace was a *bad* one. The terms made use of by *Mr Wyndham*, called up

Mr Wilberforce to explain.

Sir William Young contended, that until proofs could be adduced, which authorised gentlemen to *carp* at the confidence in ministers, he thought they were fairly entitled to it; and that no such proof could be adduced in the present case he endeavoured to prove by a favourable review of the conduct of administration pending the treaty.

Mr Jekyll remarked, that he was well aware that several persons amongst both the representatives and constituents, were, notwithstanding that they did not appear inclined to cast a censure upon ministers, extremely anxious to see the papers now moved for, in order to know what opinion to form on the Convention, and to ascertain how so large a sum had been employed, as the expence of the armament amounted to, and what were the objects acquired, and their relative value by so long a negotiation, and so expensive a preparation for war. Doubts

were entertained of the value of that fur-trade, which had given rise to this dispute, as well as of the importance of that fishery which the Convention had apparently obtained. These doubts it would be at least proper to remove.

Mr Sergeant Watson contended, that those papers which had been already produced were sufficiently adequate for explaining the grounds and termination of the late disputes, and blamed the motion as being calculated merely to satisfy an idle curiosity.

Mr Lambton, with some warmth, contended, that so far was the motion calculated to satisfy an idle curiosity only, that unless the prayer of it was granted, it was impossible for the House on any rational grounds to grant their approbation of the Convention.

Mr Burdon reviewed the conduct of administration, in the light of meriting the confidence of the House.

Lord North declared, that he thought the season of confidence was past, and that instead of using that plea now, the House should rather require the conviction of their own senses, to justify that confidence which they had in times past reposed in the present administration.

Lord Carysfort, while he admitted that the House had a superintending power, and duty equally binding upon them to watch over the executive government of the country, yet was decidedly adverse to the present motion, as being wholly unnecessary, and without any specific object:—he contended, that as Parliament had had no doubt of the propriety of arming at first, it was not necessary for administration now to clear up that point.

Mr Pows observed, that during the negotiation, the House with propriety confided in administration, because, at that time, it would not have been proper to divulge the secrets of Government; ministers knew what they were, and the House placed confidence in them *conditionally*, that they should at a proper period show that this confidence had not been misplaced. This was the responsibility of ministers, of which they often so much boasted; *then* was the time of confidence, that the hands of the executive government should not be shackled; *now* is the time of explanation, to show that that confidence was not misplaced. The doctrine, therefore, that had been now adduced, that because confidence had been given once, it ought to be always continued, was at the same time the most unconstitutional, and the most contradictory to common sense he had ever heard urged in that House.

Mr Drake, without combating the arguments, contented himself with complimenting the oratorical powers of the opposition members, and giving a warm eulogium on the ministers.

Lord Belgrave declared himself decidedly against the motion. What if gentlemen should obtain those papers, of the nature of

which it was plain they were ignorant, by their asking for them? Were they sure, that in obtaining them they would not gain too much; and by exposing those minutæ of investigation and negotiation which had taken place, run the risk of offending that wise sense of honour which so eminently distinguished that country with which we had been involved in dispute.

Lord Fielding supported the motion.

Mr Martin thought it his duty to enquire, before he could decide upon the merits of any peace, however desirable. No satisfactory reason had been assigned why information should be now withheld; therefore he supported the motion.

Mr Fox rose just as the Speaker was putting the question, and in a speech of considerable length, in which, however, he adduced no new argument, he ran over the whole that had been adduced by the different speakers on his own side of the question, placing their arguments in different points of view, and enforcing them with his usual warmth of elocution. He represented the arguments of the opponents of the motion as highly unconstitutional, and destructive in their consequences, if admitted. Rather than acquiesce in such reasoning, better, said he, would it be to recur to the ancient despotism of the kingdom, in the most arbitrary times, and consider themselves as met there to vote away the money of their constituents, without inquiry. He then took a rapid view of the arguments that had been adduced by his opponents; representing them one after another as absurd, contradictory, inconclusive, and highly pernicious in their consequences, if acquiesced in by that House. Formerly, said he, the first duty of every member of the House of Commons was, that he should regard every act of administration with jealousy, and watch their conduct with the most vigilant attention. Now, blind confidence was held out as the great function of that House; and they were desired to vote away millions of the national money, without inspecting in what manner it had been expended. He represented the desire to withhold the necessary information on that occasion, as proceeding from conscious guilt alone; and concluded this animated harangue with a short summary of the whole.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, who had seemingly reserved himself for this occasion, now rose, and in one of those masterly speeches for which he is so eminently conspicuous, endeavoured to take off the impression that these observations might have made. This speech, indeed, deserved not to be held up to view as a masterly piece of reasoning, but merely as a masterly piece of argumentation, as being well adapted to produce the effect intended. After an exordium of some length, in which he professed great alacrity and readiness, to meet, in the most direct terms, all the arguments of his opponents, and relied upon the candour of the House, to lay aside all personal considerations, He desired that this attention might be directed solely to the

measures, and not to his own personal imperfections. If the mover of the question, he observed, could not come to a decision concerning it, without having seen the papers moved for, if he could not approve, so certainly neither could he disapprove of the measure. Mr Fox, who was now so violent for the production of papers, had, he said, on a former occasion, persuaded that House to vote an approbation of a peace, without the production of any papers. The declaration, and counter-declaration and convention lying on the table, he contended, conveyed all the information that could be wanted, for enabling any one to judge on the present occasion. If the expence of three millions of money was now thought too much, he begged to know what would have been the expence if war had taken place. He reminded the House that the conduct of ministers had been approved in respect to the recent transactions with Spain, both by the last and present Parliament. After a great many observations of a similar nature, tending to draw off the attention of the House from the main question to particulars of lesser importance, he reverted again to the conduct of his right honourable opponent, who on former occasions had shown no more desire to produce papers, than he himself now did; and after politely apologising to the House for having detained them so long in refuting what he doubted not a great majority of it would consider as unnecessary, he concluded with saying, he should give his hearty negative to the motion.

The question being called for, strangers were desired to withdraw, and after some more debate the House divided.

Ayes, 134. Noes, 258. Majority, 124.

Thus was ended, *for the present*, a debate, on a subject of greater national importance, than the public seem inclined to believe it. A philosophical observer cannot help remarking on this, and many other occasions, the great mischief which results from the prevalence of a party spirit in all political arrangements. In parliament, it is not for truth or justice that speakers contend, but for victory. Men there follow their respective leaders, altogether regardless of the merits of the cause for which they contend: and the public at large, drawn away by their example, too blindly follow, and adopt the same pernicious practice.

The question agitated this day, is nothing less than whether ministers shall be allowed, while they possess a certain degree of popularity, to act entirely without controul, or the reverse? Nothing can so much tend to check improprieties on all occasions, as a certain conviction, that the public at large must be made acquainted with the real and true state of facts respecting every important transaction that may occur; and the public, if they wish to prevent abuses, ought, on no account to dispense with this compliance. It is easy for a minister to obtain a venal majority in Parliament; and as every man who is posses-

fed of power, must unavoidably wish to exercise it with as little controul as possible, it is very natural for every minister to wish to avail himself of a majority, however obtained, to effect his own purposes. This reasoning applies to all ministers, at all times, and in all circumstances, so that these observations cannot be understood, as being in the smallest degree personal. Change situations as oft as you will, exclude the present minister, and introduce his opponents, the case will not be altered.

It continues *for ever* to be the duty of an unprejudiced public to watch the actions of the minister, and to be particularly scrupulous to require the fullest information in regard to every transaction where great national expence has been incurred, that they may be enabled to judge, whether that expence has been necessarily and unavoidably incurred, or the reverse.

In every situation this is necessary; but in the state Britain is in at present, it becomes doubly requisite, because of the amazing amount of our ordinary public expenditure. Wars are ever ruinous and destructive; and insignificant disputes about national precedence ought to be avoided. During the continuance of negociation, it may be improper to divulge certain important facts *at that time*: the minister, who knows these facts, ought to be allowed to go forward, and not be unreasonably interrupted in the discharge of his duty: he has *then* a just claim for public confidence; and unless he has given previous reason to suspect that he will abuse it, he ought to receive it without reserve: but he ought to receive it at his peril. It is this which constitutes the responsibility of ministers: but when the hour of negociation is past, he ought to be called upon, and he ought to be called upon in an authoritative manner that will brook of no evasion, to give the fullest and most explicit state of facts that the nature of the case admits. If he refuses to do this, what check have you over his conduct? will not the same majority which, contrary to reason, screens him in one case, screen him in any other case? so that if he has adroitness enough to secure this majority, he must continue to be absolute and uncontroulable as long as he pleases.

The chief arguments adduced in this debate against the production of papers were the following: "That the mover of the question wished to pick holes, and to diminish the influence of the minister." Be it so; but if the minister's conduct be what it ought to be, why should he be afraid of disclosure? An honest man is afraid that his conduct may be artfully misrepresented; but he wishes only for a fair opportunity of making truth triumph over falsehood. This argument, therefore, is much against the interest of the party who urged it.

It was also said, "that the members who on this occasion acted contrary to the wishes of the minister, did wrong, because they could not know whether the papers they called for might

not show that he was in every respect deserving their approbation." This also seems an unfortunate argument ; the minister himself and his friends must know this particular ; and if he knew the production called for would operate in that way, why was it withheld ?

It was also urged, " that were the papers disclosed, it might hurt the nice point of honour of Spain," by which it must be understood, that her conduct had been so mean and humiliating as not to bear the light : but where is the minister, I will ask, who had been able to make any foreign court crouch so low, who would not have boasted of it in the highest style, in the national Gazette, and all the papers ?

And lastly, the minister himself rested his defence solely on two points : *First*, " that the last and the present Parliament had both on former occasions concurred with him, and therefore they had no right now to demand any explanation." This is an old and a stale method that has been often tried to weaken the point of responsibility by some of his predecessors, whose conduct he would not on other occasions wish to be thought to imitate, the fallacy of which has been just now pointed out ; but the pernicious tendency of which, were the reasoning admitted, it would take a volume to display. The next argument that he relied upon with great seeming complacency was, " that his opponent had done the same thing on a similar occasion." This might be so if he were in the same situation, and had reason to fear that a disclosure would prove detrimental to his own interest : who can doubt, but, if he could, he certainly would avail himself of every means in his power to screen himself ? This, therefore, is but a sorry argument to be offered to the world at large. The inference the public have to draw from it is, that if both, either have acted, or would act improperly if they had it in their power, both of them should be alike watched, and neither of them obtain any credit for a transaction which they strove to involve in obscurity, when they were called upon for an explanation.

Totally regardless, therefore, of all the parties in Parliament, all of whom wish to effect their own views at the national expence, a well informed public, while it acquiesces with alacrity in bestowing confidence on the minister of the day, *during any important negotiation*, in order that he may not, by being too much hampered, be obliged to neglect the interest of the nation ; ought, with a steady firmness, to insist on a fair and clear state of the expenditure of every farthing, and the steps that led to that expenditure by the conduct of the negotiation, *when that negotiation is at an end*. This was certainly not complied with on the present occasion ; which gives room for suspicions, that ought, most undoubtedly, to be removed.

Amicus Plato, amicus Aristoteles, sed magis amica veritas, ought to be the motto of every good citizen.

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, October 12, 1791.

Historical Disquisitions concerning the British Constitution,

PART III.

[Continued from Vol. IV. p. 135.]

IN all those kingdoms that were founded in Europe on the ruins of the Roman empire, we find evident traces of that kind of political institution, the fundamental principles of which have been developed in the former parts of this essay. The striking characteristical features which peculiarised these institutions were, that the deliberative voice remained with the people, while the executive power was entrusted to a particular officer appointed for that purpose, under the various names of Duke, Margrave, Prince, or King:—A political device that has been gradually matured into a more perfect system of government than was ever before known on the globe.

VOL. V.

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But as government is not natural to man, being merely an artificial device, calculated to correct the evils that inevitably spring up in every kind of civil society, it will necessarily follow that every political institution must be at first very rude and imperfect.—No provision can be made to remove evils to which the state of society, at the time, could not have given birth; nor can any attempt be made to correct abuses, till these abuses shall have prevailed, and the ill effects of them have begun to be felt. In the early periods of society, therefore, the administration of government must be in all cases rude and imperfect; and if it would be a vain attempt to discover what it really was at a very early period, it would be equally absurd to recur to these first attempts at forming what we now call a constitution of government, as a model of political perfection, by which the good or ill of future institutions might be estimated. In attempting, therefore, to trace a slight outline of the gradual progress of the British constitution, it is not my intention to inculcate the absurd idea of bringing it back to its original state. Political regulations ought in all cases to be suited to the state of society at the time they are made. The institutions that might suffice for a few savage roving tribes, would but ill accord with a civilized, agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial people.

Mankind, as they come from the hands of the creator, we shall admit, are all equal in respect of rank;—but nothing can be more diversified than they are in regard to natural talents, personal endowments, and instinctive propensities: so that in every possible case where men associate together, a distinction of rank will instantly take place. By distinction of rank I mean a difference in regard to the respectability with which one man is beheld by the general body of the people when compared with another. One man is active, industrious, enterprising; another is indolent, slothful, and sluggish. The first provides for himself stores of the

necessaries of life, whatever they may be ; the last neglects this important duty. This last, however, feels he must be fed, and lodged, and clothed ; nor does he find any method of obtaining these so easy as offering certain services to the first. He becomes a humble dependent, or retainer ; by whatever name you please to denote it ;—an inferior personage to the first. He is in short of an inferior rank to the man who supports him. To this man he looks up as to one of a superior nature ; he feels himself obliged to respect the children and other connections of the superior ; and the children and dependents of the inferior person feeling, at an early period of life, their wants and dependence, when compared with the other, cannot fail to do the same. It is in this way that a difference of rank must in all human societies be instantly perceived ; nor is it in the power of any human device ever to prevent it. If liberty be given for the human faculties to be fully exerted this cannot be avoided.

Now, if certain individuals must ever possess a greater respectability than others in every society, it will follow that these individuals will have more influence in that community than others, and they will become leading men in all public deliberations, or in other words, men of high rank. Their opinion will have influence in the national assemblies ; and wherever an enterprise of great difficulty is to be achieved, or a public trust of great importance is to be discharged, these popular persons will be entrusted with the charge of executing it. They will, in short, become the supreme executive officers of the state ;—in other words, the King.

In the infancy of societies, it is true, public acts of executive administration will be so seldom required, that neither will the national assemblies be frequent, nor will the want of a supreme executive officer be felt but upon uncommon emergencies occurring. On these extraordinary emergencies alone therefore will a

supreme executive officer be wanted ; and on these occasions the most popular person will be called upon, without any particular form or ceremony, to discharge that particular duty ; nor will it be understood, either by himself or the community at large, that he is to intermeddle in any other affair. If he does this in a manner that is generally approved, he will naturally be called upon on any future emergency of a similar nature while he lives. During this stage of society, influence is merely personal ; nor have men as yet acquired any idea of hereditary influence. No regulations, therefore, can as yet be made with a reference to this unknown order of things. Power has hitherto been always voluntarily conferred ; no idea has yet taken place that an attempt could be made to extend that power farther than was intended ; so that no regulation can have been adopted to guard against this evil. The people hitherto have met together by a sort of unanimous accord, when extraordinary emergencies called for it ; nor have they as yet thought of any special regulations that should be adopted respecting this particular.

By degrees, however, this order of things must be altered. A man who has been often exalted to the supreme command comes to be considered as enjoying it for life ; and as the society encreases, and public affairs become more numerous, it at length becomes necessary to have a person invested with a permanent authority to watch over these affairs. And as it would be inconvenient to be calling a national assembly to deliberate on every particular affair, this permanent executive officer is entrusted with certain discretionary powers to act from his own authority. These, at the first, will seldom be abused ; nor will any provision be made to guard against these abuses. Every individual rests satisfied with the idea that the officer may be turned entirely out of place whenever his conduct becomes disagreeable : and no provision is yet thought of to

guard against the improper exertions of power. In this stage of things the first magistrate may be considered as elective, and his office comes tacitly and imperceptibly to be held for life, without any express regulation for that purpose.

The person entrusted with this power will gradually perceive the great influence it gives him in society. By the emoluments he has to dispose of, by the favours he can confer, his influence is gradually extending. He thus acquires a set of dependents, and retainers, who, from motives of convenience, and hopes of favours, become attached to him and his family. Other men of eminence perceiving this, aspire to the throne.—They court popularity, they form parties, and try to get a majority of votes in the national assemblies. Intrigues begin to be formed for the purpose of accelerating, or retarding these meetings, and for obtaining a greater number of voices at them.—Now, it comes to be discovered that the rude and inaccurate mode of convoking these assemblies, and of voting by acclamation, were not sufficiently accurate, and that particular rules should be prescribed, and adhered to in the meeting of these people.—Their powers, as well as that of the executive officer, begin to be defined, and limited; and the rudiments of something that might be called a constitutional form of government begins to be faintly perceptible.—In this state of society the regal authority may be said to be firmly established for life, though the appointment to it be elective.

During this state of things, it may sometimes happen, from accidental circumstances, that the power of different families will be so nearly equal as to prevent any one of them from obtaining an established claim to the supreme authority for a long time; and the crown will be still elective: but in general, some particular family will acquire the ascendancy: the princes will be so often chosen from that family that it will be considered as in some measure exclusively entitled to

the crown, and in time it will become entirely hereditary, without any attempt at an election, or a particular nomination for that purpose.—This, however, can seldom happen, but in those cases where circumstances have rendered the convocation of the states troublesome, and burdensome to the people at large; that is, where no particular regulations have been adopted for distinguishing the people into different classes, and by exempting the inferior orders from the trouble of attendance, forming a convocation of a smaller number of the superior orders, who, with a view to preserve their own dignity and importance in the state, will not grudge the trouble that such an attendance requires.—Wherever this circumstance has not been adverted to, the meetings of the people have been gradually discontinued; the regal authority has gained ground. In those cases the king has not only been vested with an uncurbed power of executive administration, but he has also assumed a right of legislation, so as to become despotic.—Such is the gradual changes that an inattention to the varying situation of things necessarily produce*.

* In this sketch I have not taken any notice of the use that has been made of *religion* in all ages for serving the purposes of despotism. In Europe, the Christian religion has been most shamefully perverted for this purpose.—Happily, in the northern parts of Europe these prejudices have long subsided, and a line has been drawn to discriminate between the boundaries of civil and religious powers.—But long did all Europe groan under the load of religious despotism, which, in a most effectual manner served to establish the unlimited sway of arbitrary power in civil affairs.—After the blasphemous phrase of *infallibility* was applied to the Pope, and the persons of all the clergy were declared sacred and inviolable, it was but a small step farther to declare the persons of kings also, who were consecrated and set apart by the priests, sacred and inviolable, and to lay a foundation for their claim of a divine right of doing whatever they thought proper on this earth.—Let a magistrate be obeyed when discharging his duty; let those endowed with civil authority be respected when executing the decrees of the law.—This, a due subordination, which is necessary for the well being of the community, requires; but farther than this, no man is entitled to claim from another.—When the mind was bound by the fetters of religious despotism, it was not in a condition to guard against the encroachments of arbitrary sway in the civil magistrate.

In other cases, however, where accidental circumstances of usurpation, or competition have taken place, so as to render it necessary for the competitors for power to court the popular favour, this great evil has been avoided; and to this peculiarity Britain in particular owes that fortunate constitution of government, which so happily distinguishes her from all other nations.—Some of the most striking features of this constitution I shall endeavour to delineate in a succeeding essay, and mark the changes that have taken place with respect to this object, within the æra of certain history; an object that ought to attract the attention of every British subject, if he wishes to reason consistently on many of the topics of public discussion that daily occur, or act with propriety in endeavoring to secure to posterity those invaluable privileges on which we with so much justice plume ourselves.

In the mean while, it was judged proper to give this sketch of the natural progression of government, not only to point out the remote origin of many of those institutions we now so properly value, but also to give some slight notion of the causes of those striking differences in the forms, and essentials of the various governments in Europe, which are evidently now so diversified in their tendency with regard to the liberties of the people, and the powers of the king, though they all most obviously derive their origin from one common source, as it tends strongly to inculcate a maxim that never ought to be lost sight of by any people who value their liberties, viz. *That it is by carefully watching the progress of the ruling powers at present, and by guarding against the effects of modern encroachments that the circumstances of the times may not render very unpopular, and by this alone, that the essentials of freedom can ever be preserved.* It would be easy to show, did our limits permit, that every step in the progress of despotism has been effected by encouraging changes, that the indolence of the people, or the particular bias

of their prejudices, made them tolerate at the time as a sort of indulgence, in which they were well pleased to acquiesce. It is not by violent steps, but by imperceptible gradations that despotism has ever been established among a free people. It is by corruption, often cloathed in the most patriotic pretexts, by cajoling the people with specious arguments, by allaying the fears, and soothing the vain propensities of the vulgar, that designing men have established their power, and not by openly attacking the privileges of the people. It is the smooth and the crafty politician, and not the outrageous tyrant whose operations ought to be chiefly regarded by those who are the guardians of national freedom.

For the Bee.

HINTS TO THE LEARNED.

IN the famous convent near Chalons in France, where the unhappy Abelard fell a sacrifice to the love of the fair Heloise, there is a folio containing representations of the British monasteries about the middle of the 15th century, or about 1450, wherein a gentleman informed me he had seen some of our Scottish convents represented as they were when entire.

The present state of France is favourable to the dispersion of these curious monuments of antiquity, which ought to be bought, if they shall come to sale, for public libraries in other parts of Europe, that they may not run the risk of going to the cartridge pouch.

These conventual libraries may contain remains of the Greek and Roman classics, hitherto inedited, and they ought to be looked for. Mons. de Peirese of Aix, in Provence, was the last of the successors of Petrarcha who diligently sought for the inedited classics in conventual libraries, and he was successful in obtaining some of them in Germany.

Fragments of the Decades of Livy were found not very long ago on *battle-doors for shuttle-cock!*

Many fine things were lost at the Reformation in England, and probably many valuable MSS. afterwards went to the snuff-shops, when James I. of England was publishing his silly blast against tobacco. O what a blast of tobacco, if copies of the immortal Livy or Polybius have gone to wrap up that wretched poison of America!

Spain certainly contains many unknown valuable remains of literature, Greek and Roman, in its provincial convents, that ought to be diligently explored, and it is entreated of the worthy brethren of these houses in Spain that they may convey to the Bee a general description of such MSS. as are hitherto unregistered and undescribed in their conventual libraries. Where there are illuminated MSS. of an historical nature, and still more where they are geographical or biographical, it is entreated that such old pictures may be described.

The ancient Roman library, now unfolding at Portici, goes on so slowly that a century may be required to give the public a list of its contents.

It would be humane and noble if the King of the Two Sicilies would permit foreign potentates and foreign societies to employ poor learned brethren to unfold these interesting volumes, which would prove a comfortable aid to these unfortunate men, who see the church crumbling under their eyes all over Europe. The volumes should be all partially unfolded to know and taste their merit and importance, before the immense labour of recovering them should be attempted.

The Vatican library and Castle of St. Angelo contain treasures of historical and classical knowledge hitherto unimagined, and which might be obtained, if funds were found for exploration, since nothing can exceed the liberality and goodness of the reigning pontiff, or of the Sacred College in opening the avenue to useful curiosity, as has been experienced by the author of these hints.

L.

TRAVELLING MEMORANDUMS,

(Continued from p. 95.)

Bulleruck Mineral Waters.

BULLERUCK is a small village, about ten English miles from *Cete*, by an excellent road, lately made at the expence of the province. It is situated near the brink of the great salt water lake called *Tou*.—The lake extends about thirty miles in length, and ten in breadth; near the extremity of it, where the famous Languedoc canal begins, the city of *Beziers*, and its environs make a delightful appearance. The territory adjoining to *Bullerwick* is exceedingly rude and barren.—It is, however, very capable of cultivation, as appears by some experiments of improvements on small detached spots, where vines and olives are propogated, and thrive.—It is a singular and comfortable circumstance that these waters are innocent, and operate their salutary effects, if at all, in a very short time:—when used for drinking, a continuance of six or seven days is generally found sufficient; and few invalids stay, for bathing, or douching, above a fortnight.—*Monf. Weckit*, treasurer of the province, is proprietor of this watering place.—The well known beneficence of his character is most pleasingly manifested to strangers, by the apparently chearful, easy, and happy condition of the people.—At present the best accommodation and entertainment are to be had at the bathing-house.—I made choice of my residence at *Cete*, that I might be obliged to rise early, and take exercise.—All articles of lodging, entertainment, and using the waters, are regulated, and very moderate.—The inhabitants here seem yet in a state of innocence; and I never saw any watering place where there is so little appearance of a disposition to impose on strangers.—They have one physician, a *Dr Pouzairé*. His fee is half a

crown for every visit, or a louis d'or for two weeks attendance.—I think he is a well-meaning man; and he certainly is experienced in the proper use of these waters.—He has published a small book on them. It has lately been translated, literally enough, by an English travelling Dr. B—Pugh, with some additional observations, and cases.—The waters have certainly performed wonderful cures in recent cases of such palseys as affect only part of the body, also in partial obstructions, rheumatisms, and siaticas.—They are not proper in cases of general relaxation. Many are hurt by drinking them excessively.—I have experienced that when drank with due moderation, it is the safest, gentlest, and most effectual of all physic; and I have felt the salutary effects of it for my complaints of decayed appetite, and indigestion.—I never exceeded eight small glasses, taken at a quarter of an hour interval.—The quantity very commonly taken is three or four times as much. It is a very hot sulphureous water, with some mixture of salt and steel.

Here they have charitable funds, under a well regulated administration of certain managers, or trustees.—They have executed considerable, and convenient accommodations, and afford small pensions for poor invalids.—The princess of —, from an uncommonly rational sentiment of piety, and gratitude for her recovery of health by means of these waters, made a donation some years ago of 10,000 livres to this charitable foundation.—Such bounty, I am convinced, will give her highness a better claim to good fame in this world, and a crown of glory in the next, than if, in imitation of some wonderful emperors, empresses, kings, queens, princes, and princesses, she had alienated valuable territories to the Holy Father at Rome, or if she had burdened her people and drained her treasury by splendid and rich gifts to the Holy Mother at Loretto.

Montpelier.

12th May 1787, we returned to *Montpelier*, dissatisfied with our hotel at *Cete*; I revisited the best cabinets at present in this place.

1st, The cabinet of *Monf. Jourvent*—an elegant, though not a great collection of shells, minerals, and paintings, with a handsome library of books. He has a more considerable cabinet at *Paris*.

2^d, A collection of birds which belongs to *Monf. Fauziere*, and is kept in a fine apartment belonging to the academy of sciences.—The collection is large and beautiful.—But due preservation is neglected.

3^d, A collection of paintings, the property of *Monf. Douchie*.—Small, but choice and well arranged, with a good library.—I observed here, what was new and very pleasing to me,—a number of glass frames, about a foot and a half square, resembling the form of a lantern, with gilded pillars.——These served as so many little cabinets for birds, shells, fine minerals, and select small statues.—They have a very pretty effect, properly placed in a large cabinet, or library.

4th, The most curious and valuable cabinet of paintings in this place belongs to *Monf. Bourgaire*.

Just before we set, out Lord D——s and I, jointly purchased from Burnet and Co. several parcels of the best wines produced in this province, particularly *Fron-tinac*, *Lunnel*, *Braziere*, and a red wine which, after being bottled some years, grows excellent.—The *Braziere* is a delicious cordial.—It grows on a small territory of this province, and is so much esteemed that it is all bought up on the spot.—None of it goes in the course of ordinary commerce. The *Lunnel* is a pleasant wine, largely vended in commerce.—It has dangerous effects, if immoderately drank. Our wine merchants, to confirm this information, told us a curious fact, that if any of their workmen are disabled by violent cramps, rheumatisms, or convulsions, upon enquiry they seldom

fail to discover that they have embezzled and drank to excess their *Lunnel* wines.

Nismes.

14th May 1787, we arrived at *Nismes*, at the *hotel de Louviere*, where our entertainment was good, and reasonable.—For a sufficient description of the precious remains of Roman taste, and grandeur which are to be seen here I refer to Smolett's little testy book of travels, vol. 2. letter 10th.—*Nismes* has increased prodigiously of late years in manufactures, and consequently in population.—They reckon sixty or seventy.—I have reason to believe there are fifty thousand inhabitants.

A silk stocking manufacture is their capital branch, in which they are generally allowed to excel, both for quality and cheapness.—They have also a considerable cotton manufacture. I bought some cotton handkerchiefs, on which fine pieces of mosaic work are very well stamped.—They have several thousand stocking frames, but many of them are at present unemployed, which they attribute to a late ordinance of the king of Spain, prohibiting the importation of silk manufactures from France.—All manufactures are liable to such occasional vicissitudes; but if well established and regulated, they recover their ground, or find new channels of circulation.

I think the climate here is milder than at *Montpelier*.—One half of the people are protestants.—They have three very respectable ministers, who perform divine worship in a delightful situation near the romantic rock which fronts the fine fountains, and curious old Roman baths. On solemn occasions they assemble to the number of twenty to thirty thousand people, who are watched by military troops, but unmolested, as they are always decent and inoffensive, never tumultuary. There was such a numerous meeting, very lately, when our Duke of Cumberland was one of the audience. An honest burghers in relating the circum-

stances of this assembly to me, said, "O! sir, we wept
"for joy to see such a meeting, and at the same time
"a prince among us."

When we set out from this place, on our route to *Avignon*, we paid half a post of additional hire for a small deviation to see the famous *Pont de Gardes*.—This is a customary exaction—though not unexceptionable, it is more tolerable than the monarchical foolery of a "*poste royale*;" that is, double hire at every stage where the king has any palace or residence—as if an exorbitant imposition was a token of honour to their king.

Avignon.

17th May 1787, arrived at *Avignon*.—My worthy acquaintance Mr F——h had resided here for a considerable time.—He gave me several letters of recommendation, particularly one to *Chevalier Paris*, who has retired to this place, as many French persons of quality do, to repair the damages of early dissipation, and learn to live with elegant & economy. For this virtue French people of fashion are distinguished, and I found him a very remarkable and agreeable example of it.

I can find no particular book which gives a proper or satisfactory description, and history of this fine country. There are transient sketches of it in some of the books of travels I have referred to. The life of *Petrarch*, lately published in French, is very amusing, and contains some illustrations of its ancient history, and state.—The inhabitants of this beautiful and fertile territory, though in the heart of France, and subject to the Pope, enjoy a great measure of liberty, security, and ease.—They complain only of too much ecclesiastical power; yet it certainly is not so oppressive as in other situations.—The great and well governed cities of *Marseilles*, *Lyons*, and *Nîmes*, have so engrossed all capital articles of trade and manufactures, that the people here, though in a very advantageous situation, have not been able to acquire, or maintain any considerable share of either.

—Their chief dependence is on the resort of noble and fashionable people who reside here for ease, and independence.—It is remarkable that they practise here a more unlimited liberty of the press than any where on the continent.—They have between twenty and thirty different presses much employed; and they publish, without controul, all kinds of prohibited books.—I purchased some remarkable books of this kind, which are not to be had openly in any other part of France, and particularly the private life of Lewis XV. which is amusing, and contains many true and curious anecdotes, not very conducive to raise our veneration for Kings and Courts, nor to remove prejudices against them.

The Pope is sovereign of *Avignon*, and the adjoining territory of *Contade*.—Their right was anciently derived from transactions, ably managed, with a weak and bigotted princefs:—indeed the Popes have in many instances been great gainers by female godliness.

The Pope's Legate exercises all powers of government and chief magistrate.—His jurisdiction, in matters criminal, is absolute and final:—in civil questions an appeal is competent to the Court of Rome.—He has only 100 men as a military guard to maintain order and regularity.—He possesses a noble palace; but his income, not exceeding 1500l. Sterling a year, he lives without stately ostentation or much expence.—The Popes appoint an Italian to this office almost without exception.—Their administration has mostly been, and now is, impartial, moderate, and popular.—In the singular position of this country any degree of rigour would be dangerous, and oppression would be fatal to the sovereign power.—The Popes have only a small territorial revenue, and they have never ventured to impose or exact any taxes whatever.—The reason they assign for this singularity is satisfactory.—They say, “The King of France cannot, and the Pope dare not impose taxes.”——Its value to the Pope consists

chiefly of the ecclesiastical preferments in his disposal.—There are four bishoprics.—That of *Avignon* is reckoned worth 3000*l.* Sterling *per annum*.

The town of *Avignon* has no magistracy nor jurisdiction; but they are allowed to enjoy certain privileges, and have right to an annual revenue of no less than 25,000*l.* Sterling.—This revenue is faithfully administered by three consuls; one chosen by the Pope, one by the nobles, and one by the burgessees.—They compute that five or six thousand of this revenue is necessarily and actually expended every year in erecting new, and repairing old bulwarks, to defend this town and fertile country from devastations by the two rivers *Rhone* and *Durance*.—Sometimes this expence amounts to greater sums.—From 7 to 8000*l.* is annually necessary and expended to support their three great hospitals.—The river *Durance* is very remarkable for its rapid violence and destructive waste through all its course.—The people have this common proverb, “That the country of “Provence is afflicted by three plagues; the parliament, “the menstral winds, and the river *Durance*.”—They complain of vexatious delays, and excessive expence of law suits, carried on before that parliament*.—The papal nobility within this territory of *Avignon* are few in number, and inconsiderable in wealth.—The land property is mostly divided into small estates.—The rich and great at *Avignon* are French nobility, generally from *Provence*, *Languedoc*, and *Dauphiny*; who by their residence here are entitled to certain privileges, without affecting their rights as French subjects.—They keep up the distinctions of rank and birth to a high pitch.—They avoid intercourse or society with burgessees and other untitled people.—They even condemn the papal nobility, and in derision call them by the name of *Papists*.

* The *Parliaments* in France are merely courts of justice; not properly legislative assemblies, as in Britain.

(To be continued.)

On the Essential Qualities of Poetical Genius:

The successful Competition Essay.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

IN an age so much addicted to poetry and criticism as the present, it may not be improper to ascertain and illustrate the Essential Qualities of Poetical Composition: Are they not fully, though briefly, expressed by Horace in the two following lines?

“*Ingenium cui sit, cui mens divinior, atque os*

“*Magna sonaturum; des nominis hujus honorem?*”

In these lines three particulars are mentioned;—*Ingenium*—*mens divinior*—*os magna sonaturum*. Invention; a divine mind, or a mind unusually elevated, and talents of powerful expression. We shall make some observations on each of these separately.

I. By *ingenium* may be here understood invention, ingenuity, or that great creating power of the poet which depends on imagination. It is by this talent that the poet makes a proper choice and arrangement of those circumstances in an object, which, in suggesting it he means to employ. For though we ascribe to him creative powers, it is not meant that he forms beings altogether new, or of materials that never existed till he produced them: we only mean that he works on the materials presented to him by nature; he separates and throws them into new combinations. He thus by altering, and new modelling, makes new objects; with a view to excite stronger emotions than they would otherwise occasion.

Poetic genius is distinguished by the exercise of invention and imitation; for they are in fact the same. The poet *invents*, that is, he throws circumstances into a new form; but that form is intended to represent, so

as to make a stronger impression, something that does exist, or has existed. The great object of all imitation is Nature, either inanimated, such as woods, vales, and rivers, or animated, as birds, beasts; but above all, the actions of mankind. It is not enough merely to *describe*, the poet must *imitate*. He is not only, for example, to display anger by describing the pale face and quivering lip; but he must, by speaking the language, display the feelings of the angry man. As he chiefly imitates human nature he must suppose himself the very character he invents. He must speak what every one of the persons he represents would naturally speak, and seem to perform actions similar to what the person would have done in that situation.

The pastoral poet, for instance, has to imitate the manners and customs of the country life. If any objects are introduced that are not connected with the pastoral life, they are improper. The objects from which the poet borrows his imagery must be such as are within the sphere of the shepherd's knowledge. If they suppose great improvement in the sciences, they are improper, and cannot make a part of a pastoral poem. The characters too must be such as are suited to that state; the passions described must be modified so as to be consistent with the situation of the speaker. To say they must be always gentle, is improper; because shepherds are often represented, and with justice, as being envious and violently incensed. But it would be improper to represent them as very ambitious, or carrying their resentment to violent or bloody excess. The same thing may be illustrated in epic, dramatic, and every species of poetical composition. In all of them the poet must employ fiction, but in all of them he must adhere to probability; and while he *invents* he must *imitate*. He is to excite feelings, and this can only be done by describing particular natural objects.

II. But the poet must not only invent,—he must not only have ingenuity and those talents which depend on

imagination, he must *feel*,—he must have sensibility,—he must have the *mens divinior*. This I conceive to be the meaning of the term. The expression is general; *mens divinior*, a very divine mind, a more than usually divine mind. How comes that to signify sensibility? and is not the meaning too arbitrary? By attending to the following particulars we shall perhaps judge otherwise:

1st, What is it that exalts a mind, or makes it, so to say, divine? Is it not such sensibility as flows out in exquisite feeling or fine affection? All, or most men, have sensibility to the circumstances that befall themselves; but he whose mind is so susceptible as to be as deeply affected with what befalls others, and with imaginary events, as other persons are with real, may be said to have fine sensibility, or the *mens divinior*.

2d, The poet, in this passage, speaks like a critic: at any rate he is not to be suspected of writing loosely. He usually distinguishes very accurately, and expresses himself very correctly. He is not to be suspected of distinctions without difference, or of using words that have no meaning, or are redundant. The difference, for example, between the *ingenium* and *os magna sc-naturum* is distinctly marked. Is it fair, then, to suppose that he means no more by the *mens divinior* than by the *ingenium*? By every rule of candid criticism we must suppose that he means something different; and not only so, but something essential. He is making an important enumeration: what is this second particular in his enumeration? This leads us to remark,

3dly, That the poet, in other parts of his works, where he delivers critical doctrines, dwells very particularly on sensibility. He says explicitly, in his epistle to the *Pisos*, that without this it is impossible to enter into human passions and affections, so as to imitate them, and so as to move other persons. “*Si vis me flere, (says he,) dolendum est primum ipsi tibi.*” Now, as the meaning of a writer is always best known by

comparing him with himſelf, ſo to ſay, and ſince Horace ſets ſo high a value on ſenſibility, and ſince here he does not mention it in a formal enumeration of poetical qualities, and as in this enumeration we meet with an expreſſion which ſeems general, but which may have this particular meaning, we muſt, in fairneſs, conclude that the poet is conſiſtent, means ſenſibility, and apprehends that he announces it ſufficiently by the epithet *diviniſor*.

That ſenſibility, the power of feeling, or fully conceiving the paſſions, affections, or actions we would delineate, is a neceſſary ingredient in poetical genius, needs ſmall illuſtration. The paſſage now alluded to in Horace is ſufficient,

- “ Non ſatis eſt pulchra eſſe poemata, dulcia ſunto,
 “ Et quocumque volent animum auditoris agunto.
 “ Ut ridentibus arident, ita ſlentibus adſlent,
 “ Humani vultus. Si viſ me flere, dolendum eſt
 “ Primum ipſi tibi; nunc tua me infortunialædent,
 “ Telephe, vel Peleu; male ſi mandata loqueris,
 “ Aut dormitabo, aut ridebo. Triftia mæſtum
 “ Vultum verba decent, iratum plena minarum,
 “ Ludentem laſciva, ſeverum ſeria dictu.
 “ Format enim natura prius nos intus ad omnem
 “ Fortunarum habitum; juvat, aut impellit ad iram,
 “ Aut ad humum mærore gravi deducit, et angit;
 “ Poſt efferit animi motus, interprete lingua.

III. But what ſignify invention and ſenſibility, if the thoughts and feelings of the poet are not well expreſſed. He muſt have the *os magna ſonaturum*. He muſt be capable of adequate expreſſion, adequate to the great objects, and paſſions he would diſplay. He may imagine the fineſt objects, he may be moved by the moſt exquisite affections, but he cannot pleaſe or move others, unleſs he makes them ſee as he ſees, and feel as he feels. But he cannot tranſuſe his ſoul into theirs. He muſt uſe ſome intermediate vehicle for conveying his thoughts to thoſe whom he would affect. Language is this vehicle. He muſt ſpeak, and ſpeak perſpicuouſly, and accurately, and fully; he muſt ſpeak, and with energy, and in a manner adequate, as was

said, to his subject. He must have the *os magna sonaturam*. This quality, so essential in poetry, as it is most capable of cultivation, deserves the more to be attended to, and cultivated.—Perhaps nature must confer imagination and sensibility; but force and elegance, at least perspicuity and correctness of expression may be attained by study. What that study, or those exercises may be which tend to the improvement of expression, is foreign from our present subject. Suffice it that we have shewn, that invention, sensibility, and expression are the essential qualities of poetical genius.

Ingenium cui sit, cui mens divinior, atque os
Magna sonaturum; des nominis hujus honorem.

CRITO.

ON TALE-BEARING.

To the Editor of the Bee,

Where there is no Tale-bearer, the Strife ceaseth.

SOLOMON.

SIR,

AMONG the useful and ingenious essays that have appeared in your Miscellany, I see none on the subject I have chosen.—I propose, therefore, Mr Editor, to point out some of the bad consequences which follow this most detestable of all vulgar vices.

Vices that terminate in immediate destruction are seldom extensively fatal, because they are carefully guarded against, and rarely practised; but cunning, fraud, and hypocrisy, produce their effects without being adverted to.

Slander is the essence of tale-bearing; and slander assumes so many shapes to mislead, that the most cautious are not always able to resist its influence; and by its concealed venom it becomes the most excruciating scourge to mankind! It disturbs the peace of societies, families, and friends.

Must not he be a great coward who always attacks you behind your back, and in circumstances where it is impossible for you to stand upon the defensive?—Such a coward is the Tale-bearer, who finds it necessary to stab in the dark; and who takes the opportunity of my absence to murder my character.

Good name in man or woman, dear, my Lord,
Is the immortal jewel of their souls.
Who steals my purse steals trash; 'tis something, nothing :
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands.
But he that filches from me my *good name*
Robs me of *that* which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed !

Shakespeare.

The stratagems of Vice are so many and various, so complicated and mysterious, that they require the skill of a master to mature them. Hypocrisy is an aggregate of all that is base or abject in nature; it is the badge of a reprobate mind, the garb of a villain.—Under this unhallowed mask, that noxious thing, a *Tale-bearer* is reared, nourished, and protected. He must appear what he is not, that his tales may gain credit with others: otherwise the virtues which he must disguise would alleviate the faults which it is his business to expose.

Falseness, the ghastly mother of this unseemly child, is ever ready to assist the *Tale-bearer*, to gratify his wishes, and fill up his plan.—Facts are not always at hand, nor always convenient for the schemes of deceit.—He means to reveal nothing but what you mean to conceal; to tell nothing but what detracts from your merit;—and what can answer all these purposes so well as *Falseness*?

Idleness is the predominant bias of every weak and worthless temper, and the fruitful nursery of the most baneful habits. He who has no business of his own, must naturally turn his attention to that of others.—Your late ingenious essayist, Mr Editor, has justly pointed it out to be an inlet to every vice; and those who are addicted to it should take the hint of the *For-*

lunatic Idler, in the 21st number of your *Bee*, and leave it off in time.

Spite is that great fermentatory principle which sets all the *Tale-bearer's* passions a boiling.—Extract this from his temper, and there is not a duller, more insipid, insignificant animal in nature.

Suspicion, that self-tormenting principle, must likewise be added, and this completes the shocking compound.—Conscious of his own wicked intentions, he distrusts all mankind.—Not a circumstance happens but awakens his jealousy, and aggravates his dread.—He knows under what a variety of unexpected forms he has assailed others, and his fear of being in the same manner assailed makes him continually anxious to guard against it. He is afraid he shall be wounded by some invisible hand, and trembles for the consequence. Poor, miserable being! it is the tribute he pays for his perfidy; it is a part of the punishment which heaven hath appointed for his guilt.

In vain does such an execrable being appeal to religion, to friendship, and to good manners. In religion he cannot believe, in friendship he can put no confidence, and good manners to him only appear a mask for villainy. From the consolation these afford to other men he is entirely excluded. In the midst of society he is in solitude, and the hand of every man that looks upon him he thinks is ready to destroy him. Our detestation of such a character is almost lost in pity, when we contemplate it in this point of view: and our gratitude to the supreme Being, ought to be strongly excited, when we perceive that he hath so inseparably annexed the punishment to the practice of this detestable vice.

I might extend these observations, and show that a person of this character can neither expect to find consolation in religion, nor experience the soothing balm of friendship nor domestic peace. Independent, therefore, of the mischief it does to others, this vice must,

in a particular manner, tend to render the unhappy person himself who practises it, the most miserable of all beings.

But fearing I should transgress your limits, I shall only observe, that since the evil tendencies of this despicable habit are so numerous, let young persons be cautioned to guard against it with the utmost attention; for when it has been once suffered to grow into a habit, it is a difficult task indeed to lay it aside.

I am, Sir,

Your constant reader and humble servant,

URANIA.

Detached Observations.

They tell me that such a one hates me. Should I upon that account set myself to hate him? I would not be so besotted an enemy to myself. I will endeavour to deprive him of his hatred of me.

We are too much afraid of being despised, and too little dread being hated. We discover in this the badness of our heart, but we act at the same time contrary to our true interest; for it imports us much more to be beloved than to be esteemed. Friendship is the source of the most solid advantages we can derive from other men. It is not to those we only esteem we take pleasure in doing good. Esteem by itself is not at all beneficent.

Probity and justice are the foundations of society; they form its surety.—Goodness and beneficence, its utility;—gentleness and politeness, its charms.

I have sometimes seen free-thinkers, men of talents, disputing about religion with knowing theologians, and if a movement of compassion had not stopt it, I should have been tempted to laugh. It seemed as if I listened to a woman disputing with a geographer about the existence of the Antipodes.

For the Bee.

The End of All.

In youth, how blithe, how sweet and gay,
Life's smiling face appears,—
Our pleasures drive, and we obey,
Nor think of changing years.
In ev'ry flow'ry path we rove,
Nor spurn the giddy call,
Till thus reminded from above,
That Death's "the End of All."

Love glides within the tender breast
With sweet seducing aim;
The dear idea is carels'd,
And blown into a flame.
But age will mark the furrow'd cheek,
The genius too will fall;
The faltering tongue will faintly speak,
Is this "the End of All?"

The Syren call of pleasure draws
With merciless controul;
While vanity invites applause,
Ambition warms the soul.
But if pale sickness peeps abroad,
Such comforters are small;
The sweets of life increase the load:
Such is "the End of All."

The glare of riches charms the sense,
And honour's pulse beats high;
The serious thought is driven hence,
And shadowy phantoms fly.
While reason yields to slavish fear,
This thought will taste like gall;
Perhaps the next revolving year
May mark "the End of All."

O blend these fascinating joys
 With those of higher fame ;
 Let Gratitude's melodious voice
 Call on its Maker's name.
 Religion will her charms display,
 And smiles will meet the call ;
 Terror will yield to hope's bright ray,
 Which gilds " the End of All."

MASEA.

*A Poem, said to be written by Major Mordaunt
 during the last German War.*

Never before Published.

Go, lovely boy* ! to yonder tow'r,
 The fane of Janus, ruthless King !
 And shut, O ! shut the brazen door,
 And here the keys in triumph bring.
 Full many a tender heart hath bled,
 Its joys in Belgia's soil entomb'd :
 Which thou to Hymen's smiling bed,
 And length of sweetest hours had doom'd.
 Oh glory ! you to ruin owe
 The fairest plume the hero wears :
 Raise the bright helmet from his brow ;
 You'll mock beneath the manly tears.
 Who does not burn to place the crown
 Of conquest on his Albion's head ?
 Who weeps not at her plaintive moan,
 To give her hapless orphans bread ?
 Forgive, ye brave, the generous fault,
 If thus my virtue fails ; alone
 My Delia stole my earliest thought,
 And fram'd its feelings by her own.

* Cupid.

Her mind so pure, her face so fair;
Her breast the seat of softest love;
It seem'd her words an angel's were,
Her gentle precepts from above.

My mind thus form'd, to misery gave
The tender tribute of a tear :
O ! Belgia, open thy vast grave,
For I could pour an ocean there.

When first you show'd me at your feet
Pale liberty, religion tied,
I flew to shut the glorious gate
Of freedom on a tyrant's pride.

Tho' great the cause, so wore with woes,
I cannot but lament the deed :
My youth to melancholy bows,
And *Clotho* trifles with my thread.

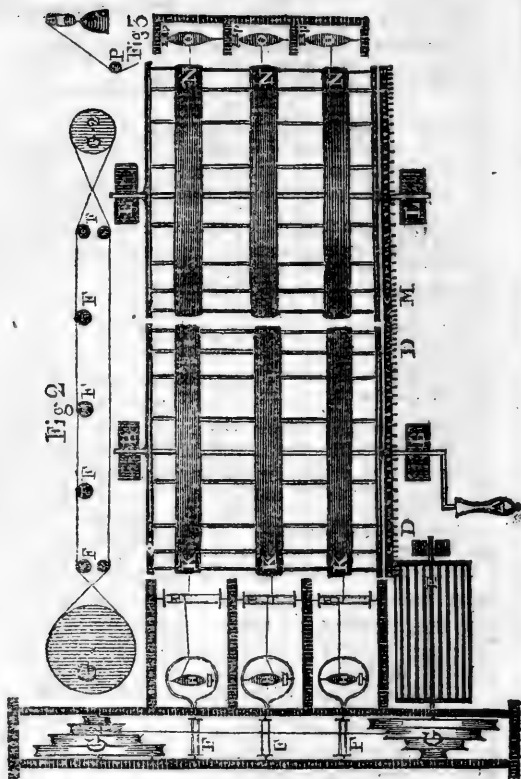
But stop, my Clio, wanton muse,
Indulge not this unmanly strain :
Beat, beat the drums, my ardour rouse,
And call the soldier back again.

Sound, sound the clarion, fill the fife,
Throughout the sensual world proclaim,
One crowded hour of glorious life
Is worth an age without a name.

Go then, thou little lovely boy,
I cannot, must not, hear thee now ;
And all thy soothing arts employ
To cheat my Delia of her woe.

If the gay flow'r, in all its youth,
The scythe of glory here must meet ;
Go, bear my laurel, pledge of truth,
And lay it at my Delia's feet.

Her tears shall keep it ever green,
To crown the image in her breast ;
Till death doth close the hapless scene,
And calls its angel home to rest.



UNTWISTING MACHINE.

Description of a Machine for Untwisting Yarn.

[See the Plate, which represents the Machine as viewed from above.]

A is the handle of a winch fixed on the axle of a reel, and resting on two supports B B, into which it is let down about an inch, but is open at top for the conveniency of allowing it to be readily lifted out or put into the stands at pleasure. On the axle of the reel is fixed a wheel c with teeth in its edge, and pins D D on its side: These pins, when the reel is put into motion, lay hold of the ribs of the trundle E, so as to put it in motion, and with it the sheeves G, which are fixed on the same arbour. An endless therm-band being stretched over one of these sheeves, is made to go once round each of the bobbins F F F, and then carried across the sheeve G 2, and returned below, in the manner represented by an end view of this part of the apparatus at Fig. 2. The two sheeves G and G 2 are so formed that the band is equally stretched when put upon any one of the sheeves. When the machine is put in motion, it therefore follows, that the bobbins F F F will be put in motion with a greater or smaller degree of rapidity, in proportion to the diameter of the sheeve G that the band goes upon. The axle of the bobbins F being protracted, is divided and bent into the form of checks, which receive the pirns H H H *; the thread being passed through a hole made in its centre for that purpose, which thread, in its passage to the reel K, is turned once round the bobbin I that turns freely on its axis. Now, while the reel K, in revolving round, pulls off the yarn from the pirn H, the bobbin F, with the pirn annexed to it, is turning rapidly round, with a motion reverse to that which it acquired in spinning; and consequently that part of the yarn which is between H and I is untwisting: and as this may be augmented or diminished at pleasure, when the machine is once set to the pitch that is judged proper, it must go on till it be altered, untwisting every inch of yarn during the operation, precisely to an equal degree, whether the reel go fast or slow.

* By a trifling mistake of the engraver, a small addition is made at the end of each of the pirns improperly.

The reel KK being in this manner filled with as much yarn as it is thought proper to put upon it at one time, is then lifted out of the stands BB, and placed upon the similar stands LL, another empty reel, exactly the same in every respect, being then put into the stands BB in its stead; and the handle and winch being taken from the full reel, and put upon the empty one,—(N. B. There is a small error in the drawing, the winch being represented as a continuation of the axle, instead of being a square slip winch, as it ought to be,)—the operation of reeling is begun again as before. But observe that the teeth of the one wheel c catches the teeth of the similar wheel c of the full reel; and of course, while the reel on the stands BB is turned one way, that on the stands LL must be turned precisely with the same degree of velocity in an opposite direction; so that if the yarn be wound upon the pirns OOO in proportion as it is let off the reel NNN, an equal quantity of yarn will be taken off the reel N that is put upon the reel K at the same time, so that the reel N will be entirely emptied by the time that the reel K has received the quantity that is allotted to be put on it at one time; Now, if that quantity be ascertained at the beginning, the same length of yarn must be put upon each reel at every future filling, so as to measure the whole quantity of yarn, merely by keeping an account of the number of fells of the reel.

When the reel N is empty, it is then lifted from its stand, and the reel K being then full, is also lifted out and put into its place, the two being interchanged, and thus you go on *in infinitum*.—(N. B. The two reels are represented in the figure as being each half full, and at that period of the operation when only they are precisely alike).

The pirns OOO are fixed upon a spindle that turns freely in an axis, and upon one end of the axis of each spindle is fixed a small sheeve PPP: over this sheeve is taken one turn of a small therm-band, which goes over a much larger sheeve, that is not represented here, and upon the same axle with that larger sheeve is fixed a small sheeve, which, when this part of the machinery is wound up, receives a small cord, in fashion, the same (though much smaller in size) with that of an ordinary jack (an end view of which small arbour is given at Fig. 3.). The weight constantly acting, though with a gentle force, turns round the arbour P, and thus gives motion to

the pirn O, so that as the yarn is let off from the reel N, it is regularly winded up on the pirn O, so as to be fit for being put into the loom for weaving. It is scarcely necessary to observe, that this yarn may be winded at pleasure, either upon bobbins having ends to each, or pirns fit to be put into the weavers shuttle, as suits the purpose intended to be made of it.

Thus, by a very simple apparatus, the yarn may be at one operation, and at very trifling expence, untwisted to any degree that shall be thought proper; reeled, so as to ascertain its quantity precisely, and done up again upon pirns, or bobbins, fit for either warp or woof, without being ever touched by the hand, or taken from the reel in form of skains, an operation (the making up into skains) that, with slack yarn, is always productive of mischief.

This little apparatus is so plain and simple, that the above description will be altogether sufficient, and give a complete idea of its principle. To give a perfect notion of some lesser particulars, would require many words, which would only tend to embarrass readers, without a great number of plates; among these particulars are—the contrivance for lifting out the bobbins FF at pleasure.

The same for taking out and putting in the pirns HHH, and for putting the thread, without breaking it, through the hole in the middle of the checks that hold the axle of these pirns.

The same for taking out the bobbins III at pleasure.

Also a contrivance for laying the yarn upon the reel K, so as to prevent one thread from ever sinking through among the rest, so as to be entangled, or to have the end lost, should it break, as well as to prevent it from rising into heaps upon the reel; and a similar contrivance for laying it regularly upon the pirns, or bobbins O O, as it is winded upon them; and lastly, the apparatus, that has been before but slightly mentioned, for communicating the necessary motion to the pirns by means of the sheeves P P.

A distinct notion of these particulars could be best conveyed to manufacturers, by having a machine of this sort actually made, and exhibited to them in a working state, from which as a model others could easily be made.

N. B. Though for the sake of bringing the figure within a moderate compass, only three pins are here represented, it is easy to see that any number that should be required might be added, merely by extending the width of the apparatus in proportion to the number wanted, and that instead of having it turned by the hand, it might be turned by machinery if judged necessary.

Proceedings in Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Convention with Spain.

Tuesday, December 14. 1790.

THE order of the day being read for taking into consideration the Declaration and Convention between his Majesty and the Catholic King,

Mr Duncombe rose, and after expatiating on the commercial benefits that had been already derived from the termination of the dispute with Spain, and the patriotic exertions of ministers, he moved an address to his Majesty, stating, that his faithful Commons had taken the subject of the Declaration and Convention into their serious consideration, and afterwards expressing sentiments corresponding to those in his speech.

Mr Alderman Watson seconded the motion.

Mr Pulteney considered the whale fishery, and the trade to *Nootka-Sound*, as of too little importance, and the insult to the British flag as of too insignificant a nature to authorise the expence that had been incurred on this occasion. He hinted at the propriety of rather embracing the opportunity that their casual alienation from France offered to break the family compact, by conciliating the good will of Spain, as a matter of much greater consequence to this country, than that of estranging her by stiff and uncomplying exactions.

Mr Alderman Curtis made his maiden speech; he applauded the Convention, and was full in his encomiums on the Southern fishery.

Mr Stanley (member for Wootton Bassett) applauded the conduct of administration, thought the papers produced were altogether sufficient to enable the House to judge fully of the me-

rights of the case, dwelt upon the indignation that was universally felt, when the news of the insult that had been offered to the nation arrived: "Reparation, however, he added, has been given for this offence, ample and unequivocal reparation. We have received an apology highly grateful to our feelings, and a confession from arrogant and insulting pretensions as advantageous as we could wish: we are now authorized to navigate undisturbed the Pacific Ocean, and to settle on all its unoccupied shores. He then compared the conduct of the present administration with that of Sir Robert Walpole, and made the parallel turn out highly in favour of the former. He insisted that Spain would not have made this great sacrifice unless the armament had been carried forward: he alledged Spain had long been arming in secret, and that the insult was determined and deliberate, but that by our spirited exertions their designs had been frustrated.

He then made a grand display of the advantages that we would derive from the Convention, among which, an increase of our trade with China was not omitted. "But independent, said he, of these advantages, which in the map are certainly very important, it would have been a mortifying circumstance, had we tamely left to the Spaniards the undisturbed possession of half a world! Were we to be excluded from seas which we had explored at a great expence? A spirit of enterprise is now excited—ships are fitting out for that trade;" and shall we, by refusing to arm in defence of our rights, suffer this spirit to evaporate in fruitless preparation?—Certainly not.

Tho' Britain, he observed, had not obtained an *exclusive* right of settlement on the North-west coast of America to herself alone, tho' other nations are allowed to participate in it, "we alone have redressed the general grievance, and punished the arrogance of the haughty and ambitious Spaniard: we have forced him to relinquish his usurpations to unbounded empire, and we meet with the reward of our generous exertions." He for these reasons gave the Convention his strongest support.

Mr Grey insisted, that if the positions of the last speaker were true, they could not vote for the address, because Parliament would then sanction an act of flagrant injustice, and a violation of national faith: for if that country had been confirmed to Spain by the peace of Utrecht, and the Conventions of 1739 and 1767, we had no right now to claim them. It was to prevent any errors of that kind he had moved for the papers. He contended that by the Convention it did not appear that we were to have right to a single foot of ground. By the 3d article, the parties were to *restore or make reparation* for such places as were taken subsequent to April 1789. Spain might choose to make a compensation: he could discover nothing, but in the third article a liberty of fishing, on which all other articles were restrictions. He could not conceive what was meant by the

words *free access*. If it meant intercourse, we were interdicted all access, in those parts where the Spaniards had settlements already; and if there should remain any place so much to the north of the Spaniards as to admit of a settlement on our part, the provision made for free access to them must be an eternal cause of difference and hostility, which, whatever others may think, the present Convention was more likely to accelerate than retard. He again adverted to the third Article, and thought it so obscurely worded, and so pregnant with future disputes, that in comparison he could not help admiring the Convention which put the disputes respecting *Falklands Islands* in the same condition which they were in before. After touching on the expenses incurred, the great extent of the armament, and the length of the negotiation, he concluded with moving, "That the House do now adjourn."

Mr Dundas in reply contended, that if gentlemen had doubts as to the right which Spain claimed, these ought to have been started when the House unanimously addressed his Majesty on the subject of the insult by Spain. He then turned his attention "to the *unparalleled* benefits which the commerce of this country must draw from the immense fisheries of the greatest ocean in the universe, and the boundless traffic of a new and almost unexplored world." He said, "the explanation of the Convention by Mr Grey was ridiculous; and insisted the meaning was clear, that the restoration was to be direct and positive where *territory* was in question, and the *compensation* only to apply to matters of *property*, which might be injured or destroyed." He confessed, that an additional burden of *three millions* of money was a very serious sum to levy on the people of this country, oppressed as they already are with debt. But he must remark, that all burdens are comparative; and though the commercial benefits of this treaty could not be estimated at so low a price as this sum, yet there were other advantages of still more moment, which would result from the vigour of these armaments: "For when the astonished universe has beheld the finest fleet that ever the ocean bore, riding thus suddenly upon its bosom, each state will naturally feel that the force which gives good treaties to this country, has given it at the same time the power to retain them."

Mr Rolle declared himself a zealous advocate of administration, and was happy in so doing, that he complied with the wishes of his constituents, the freeholders of Devonshire.

Mr Ryder spoke a few words in favour of administration.

Mr Fox condemned, as improper, the practice of introducing the opinion of constituents into that House, alledging that every member there ought to act as his own judgement directed, or if the opinion of his constituents weighed with himself, it was not an object for discussion in that House. Instead of resorting

to this authority, he wished to enter into the discussion of the Convention, on the grounds before the House. He insisted, that by refusing the papers that had been called for, the House had been precluded from knowing the circumstances on which the merit or demerit of the negotiation essentially depended, and of course it rendered censure and approbation equally improper.

If the armament had been carried on for other purposes than that of settling the dispute with Spain, as there were some reason to suspect, from hints that had occurred during the debate, and otherwise, he should not then enter on the policy of the measure; but if ministers had kept up an armament for one purpose, they ought not to call upon the House to pay for it under colour of another. It was, he said, a fundamental principle of our government, and a principle never to be departed from, that the House of Commons was, on no pretext, to vote money for one purpose, when the expence had been incurred for another.

He said, that by the Convention, the national honour had been compromised and yielded in a very material point. Honour to nations was, perhaps, the only justifiable or rational ground of contest. Wars for the sake of conquest, of acquiring dominion, or extending trade, were equally unjust and impolitic; and on this ground he wished to examine the Convention. The reparation was much less than had been obtained in the contest about Falklands Islands. In that case there was to be a complete restoration; in this, only a declaration of a disposition to restore. He then entered into the comparison more at large, and passing to the arguments that had been adduced in the debate, he said, "it had been amplified as a great accession of national honour, that we had broke through an unreasonable claim, not only for ourselves, but for all other nations, and that it became the dignity of a great nation to destroy such claims wherever they were found. But would any man seriously defend this romantic doctrine?" He admitted that the time was proper for settling the dispute respecting the *undefined* claims of Spain; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he presented his Majesty's message to the House, said, that full and complete satisfaction must be obtained for the insult offered to the national honour, previous to any discussion of the contested right, and that no satisfaction would be considered as complete, which did not take away the ground of future quarrel.

This termination the House adopted, and he rejoiced in the prospect of avoiding the trouble and expence of a tedious discussion of a question of right. In the conduct of the business, however, a contrary mode had been adopted. We had contrived to bring the question of right into discussion almost in the very first instance, and after satisfaction for the insult was offered and accepted, the Convention, which thus became a dis-

ting object, had cost as much as the reparation for our injured honour. It was therefore fair to try it by the expence and the price we had paid for it. In the early part of the debate he had heard nothing but rhodomontade about our acquisitions.

An honourable gentleman who spoke immediately before him (Mr Ryder) had put the question on its true footing. He had, from the contagion of particular phrases, talked of gaining and acquiring, but in his argument had very properly said that we had made no acquisitions, but only got security for what we had before. This was precisely what we had got; an advantage, no doubt, in as much as it was often wise to give up part of our rights, in order to possess the rest in security; but an advantage to be estimated by what it had cost. He would therefore enquire what we possessed before the Convention, and what it secured to us? We possessed and exercised as our undoubted right the free navigation of the Pacific Ocean, without any restraint or limitation. We possessed and exercised the right of carrying on fisheries in the South Seas, equally unlimited. This was no barren right, but a right of which we had availed ourselves, as appeared by the papers on the table, which shewed that the produce of it had increased in five years from twelve to ninety-seven thousand pounds. This estate we had improved and were daily improving; it was not to be disgraced by the name of an acquisition. The admission of part of these rights by Spain was all we had obtained, and it was of some value. It remained to inquire what it had cost. Our right before was to settle in any unoccupied part of South or North-West America, and we were now restricted to settle in certain places only, and under certain restrictions. This was an important concession on our part. Our right of fishing extended to the whole ocean, and now it too was limited, and to be carried on within certain distances of the Spanish settlements. Our right of making settlements was not, as now, a right to build huts, but to plant colonies, if we thought proper. Surely these were not acquisitions, or rather conquests, if we might judge by the triumphant language held respecting them, but great and important concessions. He then went into a particular examination of many assertions that had been made in the course of the debate by his opponents, endeavouring to show that if they were well founded, we had acted unjustly by Spain, and ought to be accounted the aggressors.

He proceeded, in like manner, to analyse the articles of the Convention, showing that they were unsatisfactory and contradictory of each other. By the third article, says he, we are authorised to navigate the Pacific Ocean and South Sea unmolested, for the purpose of carrying on our fisheries, and to land on unsettled coasts for the purpose of trading with the natives; but after this pompous acknowledgment of right to navigation, fishery,

and commerce, comes another article, (the sixth), which takes away all right of landing and erecting any temporary huts for any purpose, but that of carrying on the fishery, and amounts to a complete dereliction of all right to settle, in any other way, for the purpose of commerce with the natives. What might be the advantage we could derive from settlements in that part of the world, he did not pretend to know; but he knew that the Spaniards were at all times extremely jealous of having any other civilized people settled in the neighbourhood of their colonies, and therefore, in effecting this exclusion, they must have looked upon it as a great point gained by them. "In renouncing all right to make settlements in South America, he said, we had given to Spain what she considered as inestimable, and in return had been contented with dross."

If the Southern whale fishery was of the great importance it was stated to be, he contended, that in regard to it also we had made a concession of great moment; a restriction from approaching within ten leagues of the coast, was a demarcation of limits not calculated to give security, but to create disputes.

His Majesty engaged by the fourth article to take the most effectual measures to prevent the fishery from being made a pretext for smuggling, which if he did not do, the whole treaty fell to the ground. Here is another pretext for dispute: who are to judge whether his Majesty has taken *the most effectual* measures for preventing smuggling there? It is known, that the utmost exertions of Government cannot prevent smuggling on our own coast, far less can it be possible for us to prevent it there. Every trespass of this sort therefore annuls the treaty: in other words, the treaty may be annulled under the fairest and most legal pretexts, whenever Spain shall find it convenient for her to do it. Persons also might innocently come within the prescribed limits; but by which rule was it to be ascertained, that one man had gone within it innocently and unintentionally, and another wilfully and fraudulently? How was that protection to the innocent, and punishment to the guilty, to which all his Majesty's subjects were entitled, to be measured out? It is impossible to be done: Arbitrary acts of oppression will be winked at by the Court, while the minister wishes to be in friendship with Spain: whenever he alters his mind, the conduct they are authorized by this treaty to pursue, will be an immediate pretext for a war.

He then went largely into the consideration of the extreme impolicy of leaving the limits of Spanish occupancy entirely undefined. *Certainty*, he said, was of much more value than extent of territory, and therefore, he would have thought it good policy to obtain a *precise line* of demarcation in the first instance, on such an account as Spain chose to give of the limits of her occupancy, even if it should have been obtained at the expence

of a few leagues of coast. Thus we had given up a right to settle, except for temporary purposes, to the *south* of the Spanish settlements, or in the intervals between them, where they happened to be distant. We had indeed obtained an admission of our right to settle to the *north* of them, but where either the south or the north of these settlements was, no man could precisely tell. What a copious source of dispute! What fine seeds for future wars! Those who had extolled the late negotiation for the opportunity it had given to show the vigour and promptitude of the national resources, might write in the margin of the treaty,—*This will afford an admirable opportunity for a future display of the power and energy of Great Britain.* In this point of view the treaty must be considered as a masterly performance.

After several other arguments of less importance, and a good many declamatory flourishes, he at last concluded with saying, he should vote for the motion of adjournment.

Mr Pitt began with saying, he should answer the material points that had been urged by the honourable gentleman. He censured those who held up *Nootka Sound* as not worthy of contention, and he conceived the nation at large considered the conduct of administration as highly meritorious. He defended some of his lesser partizans from the strokes that had been aimed at them. With regard to the obtaining better terms and a more speedy disarmament, if the position of the right honourable gentleman could be established, then the executive government should be branded with obloquy.

As a commercial nation, it is much more commendable to cultivate than to alienate the affections of the Spaniards. Gentlemen might cavil at every measure of government, and condemn in general terms the late armaments; but he was fully convinced, that to those efforts may be attributed the happy conclusion of peace. When the Spanish Court found our national mind united, and the public force concentrated to resist an indignant and potent enemy, it was then they receded from their hostile intentions. Conscious of having acted with probity to the public interest, he would scorn to dread an investigation. Should peace, as he flattered himself it was, be established upon the broad basis of general friendship and general interest, the genius of commerce would receive a new portion of energy, by embracing new sources of opulence. The very spirit of the Convention affords every reason to imagine that the terms of amity between the two kingdoms will be formed upon a basis conformable to their true interests. The paper itself *professes* in the strongest manner to have these desirable objects in view. In this strain of argumentation he went on to point out the complete reparation that was to be given for the injury that had been received at Nootka. He then expatiated, in the

same strain of *forcible* reasoning, on the new source of wealth opened to the industry of this nation, by the fisheries in the South Sea, *without any disturbance or molestation*. The Convention, he then said, has obtained substantially all that it professed: all the objections that have been made to it are founded on *supposition*: those who oppose him call aloud for more papers, when they are convinced that every document has been presented that could be conceived for the purposes of elucidation.

He asserted that the present negotiation was, in every view, better managed, and more for the interest of Great Britain, than that respecting Falklands Islands had been. He once more reverted to the benefits of peace and concord; but tho' an advocate for peace, he reprobated, at a critical juncture of affairs, indolence, false shame, or indifference. The adoption of such a conduct he considered as a criminal excess. He wished to know in what single instance his opponents had displayed their transcendant skill as negociators. When in office they had not evinced that portion of political sagacity they now so highly extolled: their conduct had been such as to induce the nation to drive them from the seat of power.

The confirmation of our rights at *Nootka*, he once more said, was a matter of the greatest importance. Here he drew a glowing picture of its present state, contending that the people who were now deemed savages, might soon shake off their symptoms of rudeness and barbarity, by making a rapid progress toward refinement. "Who can conceive, says he, the first dawnings of antiquity, compared with the maturity of the present moment? may not such a revolution of manners happen among the people whom the honourable gentleman reviles and affects to treat with contempt?" He denied that the Convention was a concession on either part, nor had he any hesitation in saying, that by a candid consideration of the measure, it would be found a subject worthy of general approbation. Hence, whatever novelty or bitterness the sarcasm of his enemies might produce, he would rest perfectly contented in having discharged his duty with the utmost zeal and fidelity. Instead of sinking in an agony of confusion on an examination of every circumstance which led to the Convention, his Majesty's ministers, and he believed the people at large, had cause to rejoice at the termination of hostilities. He proceeded in the same strain of general eulogium of the ministers, and praise of the Convention, for some time. He asserted once more, that the South Sea fisheries were sources of great wealth, and were now secured to the *utmost extent of the human imagination*. The lines of demarcation *would be properly ascertained*. The space of ten leagues he considered as a sufficient distance. If the space agreed to was open to cavil, so was any other. The latitude of 45 or 50, might

be made a subject of dispute by those who were determined upon it, but not by persons of rectitude and honour.

The adjustment of the whole was left to the Duke of *Leeds* and the Marquis *del Campo*, in this kingdom, and Count *Florida Blanca* and Mr *Fitzherbert* abroad.

The question of adjournment was put, and the House divided,
For the adjournment 123—Against it 247—Majority for the Ministry 124.

Card.

THE Earl of Buchan, as Chairman of the Society for erecting a Monument on Ednam Hill, presents his Compliments to the admirers of the Poet, and informs them, that he has obtained the promise of a grant of the spot required from the Curators of Mr Cuthbert of Ednam. That he does not think it consistent, either with the memory of Thomson; or to his own dignity, to hand about subscription papers for defraying the expence of the proposed Monument; but informs them, that Messrs Coutts, Bankers in London, and Sir William Forbes, and Co. Bankers in Edinburgh, will receive contributions for this laudable design; and that it is proposed to erect a simple Doric Column, with a Statue of the Poet on the Capital, a Wreath of Laurel to ascend in a spiral and crown the Bard. The whole expence of which, in the manner proposed, may not exceed twelve hundred pounds. If that sum cannot be obtained, the Column will be erected without the Statue, and with the substitution of an Urn.

Dryburgh Abbey, September 22. 1791.

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, October 19, 1791.

Curfory Remarks on Grecian and Gothic Architecture, considered as an Object of Taste.

PART II.

IN the foregoing part of this essay I was enabled to proceed with some degree of steady firmness, because the principles about which I reasoned were fixed and certain: in what follows, a greater degree of caution is necessary; as no fixed principle hath been yet discovered on which we could with certainty rely. If errors therefore should be discovered, the reader, it is hoped, will treat them with indulgence. I no where attempt to decide: all that is aimed at is merely to guard against error, and to induce men to treat the opinions of others with a greater degree of indulgence than is usual in cases of this sort.

That some natural objects are in themselves more beautiful than others will scarcely be denied, even by the most sceptical reasoners. I should not think it possible, for example, if a toad and a peacock were presented together, that any human being could be found, who would not at once, and without hesitation, admit that the peacock was the most beautiful object of the two. This example, if the fact be admitted as here stated, would seem to prove that there is some universal standard, or criterion of beauty, altogether independent of fancy, fashion, or caprice; since it is supposed that all mankind agree in one uniform decision. In this, however, as in many other cases, though the opposite extremes be clearly distinguishable from each other, yet where they deviate, even but a little from the extremes, the distinction becomes less apparent, and soon is lost in confusion. We are thus led to believe, that if there be a real standard for beauty, that standard is of a nature which cannot be easily recognised. Even in regard to *natural* objects men will differ; but in respect to *artificial* objects, this diversity of opinion is so great, and so liable to perpetual fluctuation and changes, that an attentive observer finds himself at a loss to form any decided judgment whatever. It is found by experience that long habit reconciles us to fashion in dress, so entirely, as to make us think, in time, a thing is extremely elegant and becoming, which at the first appeared ridiculous and disgusting, and which, in a short time, we again ridicule as frightful and antiquated. Should any one ask why the present fashion is beautiful beyond others, abundance of reasons would be assigned, which would for the most part satisfy the person who adduced them; nor would he be at a loss to turn into ridicule the absurdity of the taste of those who preceded him. But this is only a proof of the versatility of the human genius, and the art by which self-love imposes on the human mind. So omnipotent is the power of habit, in regard to this particular, and so

totally it overpowers every other consideration, that whole nations may be found to adopt a taste for certain ornaments which they look upon as beautiful, which the general tenor of their reasoning would demonstrate, in the clearest manner, to be ridiculous and absurd. A stronger example of this need not be produced than the taste which has long prevailed in Europe for the square cut, and other peculiarities of the French fashion in dress for men, which is in general among us thought to be not only not ridiculous, but even elegant and becoming. At the same time, however, that we admire the stiff formality of that cut of clothes, so unlike to any thing in nature, as applied to animals, we find no difficulty in now laughing at the stiff formality, so similar in kind to this, which our forefathers esteemed so beautiful in the disposition of their gardens. The long avenue, bordered with parallel rows of trees, the strait walk, confined by high hedges; the trees cut into pyramids and arcades; the rivulets led in stone troughs; the formal, ditch-like canal; the straight walls, and sharp angles of the inclosures: all these, and the other objects of garden-beauty, so much admired at that time, we now look upon with the most sovereign contempt, as the very reverse of every thing that is beautiful; and in its stead we prize, and we think with reason, the open lawn, the meandering rill, the easy sweep, and the artless negligence of nature. But can any thing more nearly resemble these formal, stiff, angular beauties in our garden, than the present cut of men's clothes? Hogarth's French dancing-master, teaching the Apollo Belvidere to hold up his head, shows, in a striking manner, the justice of this remark; and the propriety of this ridicule has been acknowledged by all: but Strange's print, Apollo rewarding Merit, shows, if possible, in a still more forcible manner, the awkwardness of that form of dress. These things are admitted; but our dress, notwithstanding, is still in fashion, and

praised every day, by persons who pretend to be judges of taste, as the most elegant, though, at the same time, it must be admitted to be the most unnatural that could be conceived.

But though the principles of beauty cannot perhaps be determined with such precision, or so far be made to resist the sway of fashion and of whim as to ensure a lasting permanency in the public taste in favour of any particular class of objects, yet even in regard to works of art, there are some objects which will be found to make a strong impression on the mind of every beholder, even after prejudice hath divested them of the charm of fashion, and which thus extort an unwilling applause, though such approvers dare not venture to call the things they applaud beautiful.

It will not, for example, I believe, be denied by any person that a stately fabric, surrounded with a regular colonnade of majestic columns, in the purest simplicity of the Grecian style of architecture, is an object that strikes the mind with a sensation of dignity, and has a tendency to please. It may indeed happen that a native of China, will think this style of architecture not so light and elegant as that which his mind has been long habituated to contemplate as the quintessence of excellence in architecture; or to a Saracen it may appear not to possess the highest delicacy of form that he could imagine, or be too little ornamented to please his taste as much as those structures he has been long accustomed to admire; but still both of them will say, it is great, though clumsy, it is magnificent, though destitute of that elegance which constitutes the perfection of beauty of this kind. Such involuntary applause should perhaps be deemed the highest test of excellence; and we may from this circumstance conclude, that such buildings are well entitled to be called beautiful structures.

When we try to investigate the circumstances that produce this general effect upon the mind, we easily perceive that the *regularity* of the columns is one cause

of pleasure, and their obvious *utility* for supporting the roof, is another. But neither of these considerations separately, nor both together, shall we find sufficient to produce all the effects that are felt on this occasion: a set of slender wooden spars might be planted as *regularly* around, and equally *well* support the roof; but it does not appear that these would produce an effect equally striking. The *size* of the pillars, the massiveness of the entablature, and even the *bulk of the whole structure*, all contribute in producing this effect: nor does it seem that by disjoining these adjuncts will a similar effect be produced.

From this view of the matter, therefore, we would be led to believe, that *apparent* utility, though a principal ingredient in rendering structures of this nature pleasing, is far from being alone sufficient to produce this agreeable effect. It would seem also, that largeness of size, and apparent solidity of construction, are required to make the Grecian column produce its happiest effect; and that the massiveness of the entablature, and the bold projection beyond the wall of that part of the roof which is supported by the pillars, are all circumstances which greatly contribute in producing this effect. An attempt to disjoin these should of course naturally tend to render structures of this kind much less generally pleasing than they otherwise would have been.

It has happened, however, from that general propensity which the human mind has to acquire from habit an inordinate degree of fondness, in time, for any artificial object it has been once led to contemplate with satisfaction, that men have wished to introduce these ornaments as often as they could, without adverting to the circumstances that originally contributed to render them pleasing. Columns have been stuck close to the walls, where they are evidently useless; and by wanting the bold relief at top, which gave them much of their original dignity, they become tame and

less strikingly beautiful. This may perhaps be considered as a deviation towards bad taste, though it may chance for a time to be highly approved of. The same thing may be said of the flattening of columns, when stuck upon a wall, which we now distinguish by the name of *pilasters*.

It was not however to be supposed, that when men had once acquired a strong predilection for this kind of ornament, they should stop here. Going still farther astray, they forgot that *magnitude*, as well as *isolation*, were circumstances that contributed strongly to render columns beautiful. In consequence of this oversight, pillars have been degraded from their original office, and have been diminished to the trifling size of door-posts: nay, not content with this, architects have crowded them even into windows. Thus, in consequence of the various breaks they there produce in the heavy entablature and cornice, which must even here also accompany them, the simplicity of a large building is so much deranged, as to produce an effect altogether different from what the general stile of this massy mode of architecture was naturally calculated to produce.—A mind free from prejudice would seemingly be inclined to believe that this inordinate fondness for columns, and the incongruous uses to which they are applied, were all deviations towards a bad taste. And had not all these applications of columns been so common among the Romans, and among the architects who revived the Grecian style of architecture in Europe, as to give these practices the sanction of their authority, I should be much inclined to believe, that it would be generally allowed to be a faulty practice. In proof of this opinion, I would ask at every unprejudiced person, if ever his mind was struck with the dignity of the appearance of those puny columns, so often to be met with, stuck to the wall on each side the door of many modern buildings? Or if, when he calmly surveys that part of the palace of Whitehall which was built by *Inigo Jones*

himself, the tame pilasters, and unmeaning pillars, stuck on the outside of the wall, ranged in rows one atop of the other, each supporting its puny entablature, and the numberless little pillars, clustered around the windows, does not more mark the poverty of invention that might be expected from a gingerbread baker, than the lofty ideas of an architect who prided himself on the beauty of simplicity in composition, where grandeur was meant to be displayed to advantage? This seems to show, that even among great minds, the force of habit is sometimes irresistible.

Nor does our fondness for this ornament rest here. Though the capital of a column is evidently constructed of a form that is naturally calculated to support a considerable incumbent weight, we have not scrupled to erect single monumental columns, in their wonted proportions, perfectly isolated from all objects; though it can not be denied that by their slender form, and seeming top-heaviness, they appear to totter on their bases, and look to be in danger of tumbling down. We have even carried our partiality for ancient practice a degree farther than could have been expected, and in some cases have put at the top of the column a square piece, with the mouldings of the entablature, and the heavy, (thus applied they may be called heavy indeed,) projections of the cornice, which exhibits such a fantastic appearance, as nothing, I am inclined to think, not even long habit, without great efforts of a prejudiced mind, could ever reconcile any one to look at without disgust. Pillars, supporting projections on a bridge, that have been formed merely for the purpose of admitting of this ornament, have been also adopted in the capital of this kingdom, though the *real* stability, and much more, the *apparent firmness* and simplicity of look so generally pleasing in buildings of this kind, would have been considerably augmented by their absence.

These remarks are not intended to find fault with the stile of Grecian architecture as an object of taste, but

merely to show that it is probable our partiality for this art, and the habits of mind we have long been accustomed to indulge, have introduced *fashions* in this respect that are perhaps as little compatible with real beauty or propriety as the parterres, and walls, and clipped hedges, so much admired by our ancestors, was consistent with true taste in gardening; or the square tails and formal plaits of our coats at present, are compatible with that elegance which ought perhaps to characterise the dress of a man of cultivated taste.

(*To be continued.*)

For the Bee.

Eulogy of Thomson the Poet, delivered by the Earl of Buchan, on Ednam Hill, when he crowned the first Edition of the Seasons with a Wreath of Bays, on the 22d of September 1791.

GENTLEMEN,

IT has been the custom of that great and respectable nation, the French, to pronounce, at the meetings of men of genius, learning, and taste, the praises of the illustrious dead; and this custom has been adopted by other countries, as emerging from barbarity, they became gradually sensible of the great superiority of men eminent in science, and endowed with learning and taste, over the ignorant and illiterate, however high in power, or dignified by titles.

They saw and deplored the rude institutions of their savage ancestors—institutions which covered men with honours, according to the whim or prejudice of illiterate princes, and left the real benefactors and ornaments of society to languish in obscurity. Fortunately, born as we have been, in the age of a Frederick the

Great, and of a Washington, all men possessed of any feeling or taste have rejoiced, and do now rejoice, to behold the dignity of human nature beginning to appear amidst the ruins of superstition and tyranny, and the immortal Prussian standing like a herald in the procession of ages to mark the beginning of that order of men who are to banish from the earth the delusions of priestcraft, and the monstrous prerogatives of despotic authority.

I think myself happy to have this day the honour of endeavouring to do honour to the memory of Thomson, which has been prophanelly touched by the rude hand of Samuel Johnson, whose fame and reputation indicates the decline of taste in a country, that, after having produced an Alfred, a Wallace, a Bacon, a Napier, a Newton, a Buchanan, a Milton, a Hampden, a Fletcher, and a Thomson, can submit to be bullied by an overbearing pedant.

Scotland, gentlemen, though now full of men who are above servile compliance with the power of the day, was, in the days of Thomson a nation of proud and poor nobles, and dispirited vassals. Except Belhaven and Fletcher, whom he hardly saw, and Argyle, Stair, Marchmont, and other free spirits, whom delicacy forbids me to mention, there were few in the kingdom who could encourage the poet to rise above the mediocrity of a fettered student of divinity, or to inspire his mind with that noble sentiment of independence by which his life and his writings are characterised and distinguished. In the family of Jerviswood, to which he was introduced by the kindred of his mother, he received the earliest attentions; and some verses of his, addressed to one of that family, for the use of some books, are, I believe, still preserved as an early specimen of his genius.

That the lady indiscreetly alluded to in the life of Thomson, should have encouraged him to try his for-

tune in London is highly probable ; but that she should have deserted him afterwards agrees not with the nature of spontaneous patronage ; for nothing is more natural to patrons than the desire of seeing due attention paid to their recommendations, and following out the objects of their protection to the attainment of honour that shall reflect upon themselves.

The trifling story about his losing his bundle on his way from Wapping to Mallet's house in London, and the want of his shoes, is in the peculiar stile of malevolence which characterizes the works of Johnson as a biographer.

The only occasion I had the mischance to meet Johnson was at old Strahan's, the translator of the six first books of the *Æneid*, in Suffolk-street, where I found him and Mallet preparing these books for publication ; and there I remember to have heard them repeating this story with glee, after having cut down Dryden, Gavin Douglas, Trapp, and the other predecessors of poor Strahan, in the translation of the *Æneid*.

We are much indebted to Aaron Hill for his kindness to Thomson, and his handsome lines in compliment to Scotland, now in every mouth ; No more poetry and prophecy, but matter of fact !—How different an Aaron Hill and a Joseph Pennant from a Samuel Johnson !

Why, says Johnson, are the dedications to Winter and the other Seasons, contrary to custom, left out in Thomson's collected works ? I will tell you, shade of Johnson, *Because little men disappear when great men take their proper station.*

Lord Chatham, Lord Temple, Lord Lyttleton, Sir Andrew Mitchell, Dr Armstrong, Mr Gray of Richmond Hill, and Mr Murdoch, I have often had the pleasure to hear on the subject of Thomson. All of them agreed in the testimony of his being a gentleman, as well as a poet, far above the degree of most of our modern poets.

Of Johnson's criticism on the poem of Thomson entitled *Liberty*, I shall say nothing: but I am sorry to be obliged to own that Britain, especially Scotland, knows but too little of the *Liberty* that Thomson celebrates!

Of the elegance of Thomson's manners and taste, I shall give you a specimen in a letter of his to Lord Lyttleton, and of his heart in two to Mr. Rofs, and with these I will trust the effect of my encomium to your own reflections.

Thomson to Mr. Lyttleton.

" Dear Sir, " *London, July 14, 1743.*

" I had the pleasure of your's some posts ago, and have delayed answering it hitherto, that I might be able to determine when I could have the happiness of waiting upon you.

" Hagley is the place in England I most desire to see; I imagine it to be greatly delightful in itself, and I know it to be so to the highest degree by the company it is animated with. Some reasons prevent my waiting upon you immediately; but if you will be so good as to let me know how long you design to stay in the country, nothing shall hinder me from passing three weeks or a month with you before you leave it.

" As this will fall in autumn I shall like it the better, for I think that season of the year the most pleasing, and the most poetical; the spirits are not then dissipated with the gaiety of spring, and the glaring light of summer, but composed into a serious and tempered joy.

" The year is perfect. In the mean time I will go on with correcting the *Seasons*, and hope to carry down more than one of them with me.

" The Muses, whom you obligingly say I shall bring along with me, I shall find with you;—the Muses of the great simple country, not the little fine-lady Muses of Richmond Hill. I have lived so long in the noise,

or at least the distant din of the town, that I begin to forget what retirement is; with you I shall enjoy it in its highest elegance, and purest simplicity.

"The mind will not only be soothed into peace, but enlivened into harmony. My compliments attend all at Hagley, and particularly her * who gives it charms to you it never had before.

"Believe me to be ever, with the greatest respect,
most affectionately your's,

James Thomson."

Thomson to Mr Ross.

"Dear Ross,

London, Nov. 6, 1736.

"I own I have a good deal of assurance, after asking one favour of you, never to answer your letter till I ask another. But not to mince the matter more to a friend, and all apologies apart, hearken to my request. My sisters have been advised by their friends to set up at Edinburgh a little milliner's shop, and if you can conveniently advance to them twelve pounds on my account, it will be a particular favour.

"That will set them a-going, and I design from time to time to send them goods from hence; my whole account I will pay you when you come up here, not in poetical paper credit, but in the solid money of this dirty world. I will not draw upon you in case you be not prepared to defend yourself; but if your purse be valiant please to enquire for Jean or Elizabeth Thomson, at the Rev, Mr Gusthart's†; and if this letter be not sufficient testimony of the debt, I will send you whatever you shall desire. It is late, and I would not lose this post. Like a laconic man of business, therefore, I must here stop short; though I have several

* Lucy Fortescue, Lord Lyttleton's first wife.

† One of the ministers of Edinburgh, father of Dr Gusthart of Bath: by that worthy clergyman I was baptized on the 8th of June, O. S. 17 and he was always so kind to me that I wish I could perpetuate the memory of his virtues.

things to impart to you, and through your canal, to the dearest, truest, heartiest youth that treads on Scottish ground.

“The next letter I write you shall be washed clean from business in the Castalian Fountain.

“I am whipping and spurring to finish a tragedy for you this winter, but am still at some distance from the gaol, which makes me fear being distanced. Remember me to all friends, and above them all, heartily, heartily to Mr Forbes; though my affection to him is not fanned by letters, yet it is as high as when I was his brother in the Virtû, and played at chess with him in a post-chaise.

*To Mr George Ross,
at the Hon. Duncan
Forbes his house in
Edinburgh.*

I am, dear Ross,
most sincerely
and affectionately your's,
James Thomson.”

Thomson to Mr Ross.

“Dear Sir,

London, January 12, 1737.

“Having been entirely in the country of late, finishing my play, I did not receive your's till some days ago. It was kind in you not to draw rashly upon me, which at present had put me into danger; but very soon, that is to say, about two months hence, I shall have a golden buckler, and you may draw boldly. My play is received in Drury-lane playhouse, and will be put into my Lord Chamberlain's, or his deputy's hands, tomorrow. May we hope to see you this winter, and to have the assistance of your hands, in case it is acted? What will become of you if you don't come up? I am afraid the *Creepy* and you will be acquainted.

“Forbes, I hope, is chearful and in good health.— Shall we never see him? or shall I go to him before he comes to us? I long to see him, in order to play out that game of chess which we left unfinished. Remember me kindly to him, with all the zealous truth of old

friendship. Pettie * came here two or three days ago ; I have not yet seen the round man of God, to be. He is to be parsonified a few days hence. How a gown and cassock will become him, and with what a *holy leer* he will edify the devout females !

“ There is no doubt of his having a call, for he is immediately to enter upon a tolerable living. God grant him more, and as fat as himself.

“ It rejoices me to see one worthy, honest, excellent man raised, at least to an independency. Pray make my compliments to my Lord President † and all friends. I shall be glad to hear more at large from you. Just now I am with the Alderman, who wishes you all happiness, and desires his service to Joe. Believe me to be ever

“ Most affectionately your’s,
James Thomson.”

In these letters you see exhibited the gentleman, the man of elegant taste, the kind relation, and the affectionate friend.

In his poems, those who are happy enough to be able to taste and relish that divine art which raises the man of clay from the dirty soil on which he vegetates, to the heaven of sentiment, where he can roam at pleasure in the regions of fancy, will delight in seeing the beautiful pictures of nature presented to their eyes as spectators, and not readers : and after these delightful impressions are over they will find themselves happier and better than they were before.

They will behold none of the enervating beauties of the Sacotala of the Hindoos, or of the dry meditations of our modern poetasters, but they will every where find what comes home to the heart, and to the enlightened understanding of the admirers of Nature, and the lovers of Virtue. I have in my hands a copy of the Seasons,

* The Rev. Patrick Murdoch, the oily man, characterised *ecu amore*, in the Castle of Indolence.

† Duncan Forbes.

which my father received from the author, and on it, since I have not the bust of the poet to invest, I lay this garland of bays.

“ Hail, Nature’s poet! whom she taught alone
To sing her works in numbers like her own!
Sweet as the Thrush that warbles in the dale,
And soft, as Philomela’s tender tale;
She lent her pencil, too of wond’rous power,
To catch the Rainbow, and to paint the Flower
Of many mingling hues. Then smiling said,
(But first with laurel crowned her favourites head)
These beauteous Children tho’ so fair they shine,
Fade in my Seasons. Let them live in *Tbine*!
And live they shall, the charm of ev’ry eye,
Till Nature sickens, and the Seasons die.”

On the probable Causes of the Déluge.

To the Editor of the Bee,

Communicated by *Capt. Firelock.*

So perfect are the laws by which this wonderful system is regulated, and so effectual that self-physic which the Almighty has instituted through all his works, that if any fortuitous accident happens in the system, there requires no immediate interposition to prevent or cure the mischief, each body carrying within itself the principles of preservation and cure; an argument of wisdom and foresight worthy the Deity.

The planet Jupiter was attracted out of his orbit by the enormous comet which appeared in the year 1680. The comet came across the plane of his track, had a temporary influence upon him; and it is observable he has not travelled by the same fixed stars since that period which he did before it. When the influence of the comet had ceased, and he was again left to that of the sun, as before, no doubt but his usual motion was momentarily retarded, and the shape of his orbit altered.—Now if Jupiter consists of land and

water, (and by the spots seen on his face it is more than probable) it is possible he might experience a revolution something similar to our flood: for that our flood was occasioned by the near approach of a comet, is a most natural supposition, and in no wise militates against the scriptural doctrine of that event; as it was as easy and as consistent for the Almighty to render justice by a secondary cause, as by an immediate interposition. Nor is his attribute of mercy arraigned by the promiscuous destruction the deluge occasioned; for it is evident, by reasoning from his works, that he governs the universe by "general not by partial laws."

The vestiges of the deluge are so remarkable, both on the surface and within the bowels of the earth, that, if examined without prejudice, they prove, I think beyond a doubt, that awful revolution to have been the work of a comet. Not that the moisture of its tail drowned the world, as was unphilosophically suggested by Whiston; but, if the attraction of the moon be capable of raising the water of the sea above its common level, what effects might not be supposed from the nearer approach of a body perhaps many thousand times as large as the moon? If a tide, by such an attraction, was raised three or four miles above the level of the sea, the earth, by turning on its axis, would have that protuberance dragged over the land, and its surface would be ploughed up into those inequalities we call mountains; for that mountains are not of eternal duration, is evident from their growing less even in the memory of man: for every thing strives at a level. Rains falling on mountains wash down their asperities; this matter bemuds the rivers, and banks our sea; rocks themselves yield up their fantastic figures to the effects of air, water, and heat; and land has been growing into the water ever since the deluge. But why should all assemblages of mountains be arranged like the little ridges of sand on

the sea-shore? Doubtless by having been produced by a superior tide, and left to dry by an unreturning sea. Almost all great ranges of mountains run north and south: the Cordilleras of the Andes; the Mountains of the Moon in Africa; the Dofranes, Caucasus, Appenine, Allegany, &c. &c. the Alps and Pyrenees excepted.

As comets visit our system in all directions, why might not that in question have its motion from north to south, and, dragging the sea after it, determine the mountains to those points of the compass? From whence come the shells and fish bones we meet with on the top of the highest mountains? We have not discovered any power in nature disposed to work such quantities of them through the bowels of the earth; and superstition has not yet been so mad as to carry them thither: they are not a fortuitous assemblage of atoms assuming such forms, not *lufus natureæ*, but *bona fide*, shells and fish bones, such as we meet with on the sea-shore. We find them also deep buried in the bowels of the earth, far from the sea. We find them in rocks, and often converted into stone; nay, why may not the fat of fish, joined with vegetable substances, form the bitumen of coal? We have experiments that warrant such a suggestion. Now, if ever the sea was dragged over the surface of the earth by the attraction of a comet, these effects must naturally follow. In digging into the bowels of the earth, we have still stronger evidence that the flood was occasioned by the near approach of a comet. It is well ascertained that the united attraction of every atom of the earth forms that earth into a dense ball, and not any particular attraction to its centre. All matter being therefore affected by this power, in proportion to its density, one might conclude that the heaviest bodies would lie deepest, and the lightest near the surface; but this is by no means the case: coal is lighter than stone; various minerals lie upon light earths, &c. evidently proving

that the general order of nature has at some time been disturbed, and the manner in which matter obeys the laws of gravity disarranged. Hence the philosophic miner finds strata of various density in digging downwards; and in pursuing his vein of ore, finds that strata are broken and divided; nay, if he loses the vein, he can easily tell where to find it again, by the manner in which it broke-off. In this he is never mistaken: he sees it as it were through many fathoms of earth! evidently suggesting that some revolution in the earth has broken up its naturally arranged strata, and introduced "this regular confusion."

The various strata of the earth seldom lie on one another horizontally; they generally dip, and, near the shore, commonly incline towards the sea. On the south coast of England the rocks incline southerly; on the opposite coast of France, they incline to the north. Is it not probable that at the deluge the horizontal stratum was broken between these countries, and the ends falling lowest at the breach, formed the channel into which the sea flowed when it lost the influence of the comet, and again obeyed the power of gravity? Countries separated by narrow channels, universally have their shores inclining towards the sea, shewing that the General Geography was at that time altered.

It is true, we have an old doctrine revived and supported by respectable authority, that mountains were formed originally by those eruptions we call volcanos. The votaries of this theory pronounce the hollows and cavities on the tops and sides of mountains, craters, or the cups of extinguished volcanos; and if the stone of the mountain be of a blueish colour, then it is declared lava, and the proof of a volcano having existed there becomes incontrovertible! History, however, affords us very few instances of mountains so formed. This doctrine has received very just authority from the late scientific circumnavigators. The rocks which surround the islands of the Pacific Ocean

generally break off perpendicularly, about a mile out at sea, which makes their approach very difficult and dangerous; and as the stratum immediately under the loam of the surface has an ashy or lava-like appearance, the voyagers very naturally concluded that the immense number of small islands which stud that extensive ocean, were the product of subaqueous eruptions. If I might be allowed to hazard an opinion against such respectable authority, I should rather apprehend that the Pacific Ocean had been once a continent, and that at the deluge, when the earth's surface was disarranged and broken up by the violent motion of the waters, the general body of it sunk beneath the level, or was washed away to other parts, leaving only the more elevated and solid part remaining. For volcanos throw up matter piecemeal: islands therefore formed by them, would have a sloping or gradual sinking shore; whereas the islands of the great South Sea are surrounded by perpendicular rocks that sink in that direction to an almost unfathomable depth in the sea. Besides how can we account for that similarity of manners, customs, colour, and even language, among the inhabitants of islands so distant that no mode of navigation they practise would ever make them acquainted, or have any communication with one another? If these islands were thrown up from the bottom of the sea, their inhabitants would not be thrown up along with them, and all with the same customs and language. Now if this immense part of the globe was a continent before the deluge, the inhabitants might be alike; and if the elevated parts were above the waters (a circumstance more than probable) inhabitants might be saved among them with every circumstance of similarity we now find among them; for that revolution is not of so remote date, but remains of antediluvian manners might exist at this time.

Accept of these excerpts from your well-wisher,

CAPT. FIRELOCK.

*Account of the present State of the infant Settlement at
Tobermory, in the Isle of Mull,**To the Editor of the Bee.*

SIR,

I HAVE observed with concern, that for some years past you have not appeared in any public manner as a favourer of the British fisheries. This is so contrary to what I expected, when I saw you on these coasts in the year 1784, that I could not help remarking it with some kind of astonishment.—Your activity on that occasion, and your zeal in the cause, excited not my attention alone, but that of many others, who, like me, were witnesses to your exertions—and we hoped to derive great benefits from your labours.—These expectations were not diminished when we perused your account of the present state of the Hebrides, and western parts of Scotland; which, unfortunately for us, we find is but too just a representation of the state of things among us, particularly with respect to the salt laws—which is a grievance of the most oppressive sort, that nobody who has speculated upon this subject, but yourself, seems to have properly regarded.—But even you, Sir, are not, I am persuaded, fully apprised of all the hardships these cruel laws are productive of, to the poor people of this country.—For God's sake, then, resume your pen, and exert your best influence to get these destructive laws repealed—for nothing less than a total abolition of the salt duties can ever enable the people of this coast to carry on the business of the fisheries with advantage. Were that once done, the exertions of the patriotic society for encouraging the British fisheries might do much to mitigate the lot of the unhappy persons on these coasts, who otherwise must emigrate in thousands.—I observe, by some

hints in one of your late *Bees*, that this subject has not eluded your notice entirely—But, believe me, what has already taken place is only a small prelude to much more extensive emigration that must soon ensue, unless they be guarded against by some general plan, that shall put it in the power of the people to earn a subsistence for themselves, by the labour of their hands—which is not, in too many cases, within their reach at present.

I had occasion to call in at this place on my way northward at present. It is much altered since the year 1784, when you was here.—I wish I could make a good drawing of it—I would gladly send it to you ; as the scenery, if well executed, is not a little picturesque. But as I am not possessed of the talent of drawing, I must content myself with a feeble description of the buildings erected here.

The most striking part of the new work here is the *quay*—a strong breast-work of stone, that extends from one side of the harbour to the other, covered on the top with free stone. This is a neat solid structure, and has a very pretty effect when viewed from the sound, or the entry into the harbour.

Of the buildings erected by the society, the most considerable are—a large commodious storehouse, one end of the lower flat of which is rented by the board of customs as a king's warehouse ; and the other end of the lower flat is appropriated for private warehouses :—A customhouse, and house for the collector—another house of equal size, divided between the comptroller and surveyor—and a large and elegant building for an inn :—A blacksmith's shop, and a boat-builder's shade. The only houses below the bank, besides, are one large house built by the Mr. Stephensons of Oban, who are, I find, of your acquaintance ; in which they carry on the business of shopkeepers and merchants, and in which they have laid up large store of materials for the fisheries :—Another large

house is building, and now well advanced, by a Mr. M'Phail, who is to set up in the mercantile line—and a third large one by a Mr. M'Lauchlan, who proposes to let it to tenants. One Urquhart, a boat-builder who came from Leith, has built a large house for himself; and, as he is reckoned a good workman, I am persuaded he will find employment enough. The blacksmith is also as busy as can be.

On the top of the bank, in Argyll terrace, only one house is yet finished, which is inhabited by a tailor. It is very neat, and is covered with a slate roof. Another, equally large, is building by a boatman.

On Breadalbane-street, I think there are fourteen houses built. They are neat and regular, and make a very good appearance. They are inhabited by shoemakers, joiners, and fishermen, &c. They expect to get a post-office established here in a few weeks, which will be a great advantage to the place.

Nothing can be said of the trade of this place. The customhouse has as yet had but very little business; but that will gradually increase, if the country be permitted to thrive, and the fisheries to be carried on with advantage.

Among the many wants that a beginning establishment must feel, one of the most pressing is the want of a school here. I understand the Rev. Mr. Kemp was here some months ago, who said that the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge would contribute one half the salary of a schoolmaster, if the Society of British Fisheries would advance the other; so that I hope this inconvenience will soon be remedied.

Since I have been here, the stir that is going on about the buildings, &c. has tended in some measure to divert the melancholy I felt in beholding the desolate state of some other parts of this country. But still these gloomy ideas recur when I take time to reflect; so that I shall end as I began, with earnestly requesting that you will try to convince those who are not

personally acquainted with the real state of this country, of the necessity of a total repeal of the salt laws, which alone can ever afford the people here that relief their circumstances require.

I find my zeal has exceeded my discretion on this occasion; but I trust my motive for it will plead with you as an excuse for the length of this letter.

I am, with much esteem, and sincere good wishes for the success of your literary labours.

Sir, your most obedient servant,

Tobermory,

A HIGHLAND OBSERVER.

August, 1791.

For particular reasons, I omit the precise date of this letter. Pray can you tell me what became of the *report* made by captain Huddard, who visited these coasts two or three years ago. I had not the good fortune to fall in with him:—but as he was a sensible man, and must have made observations that are of public consequence to be known, I have often wondered what could be the reason it has not been published.

I expect to visit this place next year, and if so, will do myself the pleasure of giving you a short account of the changes I shall there observe upon it.

N. B. The Editor cannot answer this question, as he has never been able to learn whether that gentleman gave any *report* to the society, or the nature of his remarks. From the character he bears for talents and accuracy it is very natural to think his observations would be of such importance as to require that they should be published. Any information respecting Tobermory or Ulapool, will be very acceptable.

*A Query.**To the Editor of the Bee.*

SIR,

MANY of your readers must have observed that the common red-earth worm delights to pull straws, half withered grass, or decaying leaves of any kind, into their holes. I have never been able to conceive what use these animals make of these materials, and will be glad if you, Sir, or any of your readers can solve this difficulty. I never, I think, observed them try to pull any leaf while in full health and in vigorous growth into their holes, not even so much as a blade of grass while growing vigorously. From this circumstance I should rather be inclined to think they did not seek after these for food;—or do they only feed upon plants when in a certain degree of putrefaction?

I am, Sir,

A YOUNG OBSERVER.

*Farther Intelligence respecting the Sparrow and Martin.**To the Editor of the Bee.*

SIR,

AGREEABLE to my promise I send you all the particulars I have been able to gather concerning the hen sparrow, and cock swallow that cohabited together, and am sorry it must prove so little satisfactory.

This singular pair rebuilt their nest after it had been destroyed, and lived together with great cordiality for several weeks; but no more eggs were laid. At length they left their nest, and probably their matrimonial union was dissolved, as is common with all the birds that pair, the season of incubation being over.

I am, &c.

MEDICUS.

[Competition Piece.]

To the Editor of the Bec.

SIR,

At a period when I had much more leisure than experience, I ventured to attempt something in verse, which was not designed to exceed two or three hundred lines; the subject I chose was a neighbouring country villa, remarkable for its natural beauties rather than the embellishments of art. It is situated on the border of a very extensive lake, beautified with numerous little wood-grown islands, and is surrounded with an infinity of woods and groves. After describing (as well as I could) the villa and some of its particular beauties, I ventured into a description of the lake and its islands, where I could not but indulge myself in the following reflections. Whether they have any thing of nature in them or no, is left to your determination.

HIBERNICUS.

CHILDHOOD.

YE happy isles! full many a chearful day,
 Beneath your shades I spent in thoughtless play,
 Where (for a barge conveyed us safely o'er)
 Oft have I wander'd from the reedy shore,
 With fellow children chas'd the humming bee,
 That led us heedless on from tree to tree;
 Or pryed industrious where the berries lay,
 Conceal'd beneath some downward-bending spray.
 How glad! how swift! we ran, when joyous cries
 Convok'd the wand'ers to the juicy prize;
 Oft from her leafy den the tim'rous hare
 Would start affrighted,—stop, and turning stare;
 Still we pursued her with our wand'ring sight,
 And mark'd her seeming lameness in the flight.

But sports like these can now delight no more,
 Nor former plays so pleasing once before;
 Far other scenes our ripen'd years employ,
 And care and labour damp our rising joy;
 No more we saunter o'er the neighb'ring plain,
 A loud, a noisy, gay, unthoughtful train.
 Some, once the partners of our youthful play,
 Nipt in the bloom, have clos'd their little day;

No more they laugh, no more they mirthful run,
 Their joys, their sports, and all their woes are done;
 Some fate adverse to wilds and deserts sends,
 Far from their country and their little friends,
 Where pathless woods obscuring half the day,
 Perplex the Indian in his leaf-strewn way,
 Beneath whose shades fell tygers lurking lye,
 To seize the prey that wanders heedless by.

I, only I, of all the harmless train,
 Amid my native, well known hills remain;
 Yet still I love to sit beneath the shade,
 Or cross the lawns where once we thoughtless stray'd;
 When milder evening with enfeebl'd ray
 Remits the bustling labours of the day,
 And other swains in noisy bands resort,
 To meet th' associates of their custom'd sport;
 Yet still I love to take a thoughtful round,
 Along th' untrodden, still remember'd ground,
 Where high-grown trees o'erhang with solemn shade
 The wild luxuriance of the grassy glade;
 And where the tuneful songsters flutt'ring fly
 Back through the branches as I wander by,
 And warbling redbreast quits his evening song,
 To gaze attentive as I muse along;
 Or as I onward come, he flits away,
 Still lightly hopping on from spray to spray,
 Till at more near approach, he spreads his wings,
 Skims through the branches, lights again, and sings.

N. B. Should the Editor think a description of the island prefixed, or a few of the following verses subjoined, would render the thing more complete, it might easily be done.

These verses will be very acceptable. Edit.

The Lady's Choice of a Husband.

SHOU'D e'er it come to pass, that I
 A wedded life am doom'd to try,
 Let me in simple verse relate
 My chief essentials in a mate—

First then, as my peculiar aim,
 (Far beyond honour, wealth, or fame)

A mind where heavenly truth presides,
 Directs his faith, his practice guides,
 Good understanding, judgment sound;
 Tho' not for dazzling wit renown'd,
 A generous, candid, honest heart!
 Above the little tricks of art:
 Good nature enough not to espy
 My failings with an angry eye;
 For gentle treatment still must bind,
 In willing chains, a gentle mind!
 His outward form, or dress, or air,
 I deem least worthy of my care,
 For mental beauty these excels,
 As nuts surpass the empty shells.

Few will presume my choice to blame,
 Tho' some perhaps may thus exclaim;
 "But where's the writer? we would view
 "Her merits and attractions too:" }
 Alas! in sober truth they're few!
 Beauty, which captivates the most,
 She has not in the least to boast;
 Nor lively wit's enchanting grace,
 That prompts applause in every face;
 Nor yet the fascinating glare
 Of wealth, which multitudes ensnare,
 Unskill'd in all the winning arts,
 Oft practis'd in subduing hearts:
 One thing she boasts, (disclaiming these)
 An unaffected wish to please!
 If this is merit, this alone,
 She can with safety call her own.

But shou'd I ne'er in wedded life
 Sustain the character of wife;
 May I with chearful temper still
 Submit to heaven's appointed will!
 (Knowing, "whatever is, is right,"
 Howe'er obscur'd to mortal sight).
 And when the messenger of death
 Bids me resign this mortal breath,
 Aided by faith's triumphant eye,
 Look to the realms beyond the sky,—
 Those realms! where peace and pleasure reign,
 Beyond the reach of sin and pain.

Intelligence respecting Arts.

COTTON MANUFACTURE.

THE cotton manufacture in this part of the country is extending more and more. Several people from Germany and Holland have been lately here, giving commissions for goods of that sort to a very considerable amount, so that the business is now so briskly carried on, that the demand for cotton yarn from England can scarcely be supplied. Although there are now many cotton spinning machines in Scotland upon a pretty large scale, yet it has been found by an accurate investigation lately made, that Scotland, in the course of one year past, has paid no less than *three hundred thousand* pounds for cotton yarn brought to it from England. In consequence of this fact being made evident, it has been resolved on to erect a cotton spinning machine, *upon a very large scale*, in the neighbourhood of Paisley: the building, it is said, is to be *three hundred feet in length*, and other dimensions in proportion. Might not those who are emigrating from the Highlands to America, find a settlement in the neighbourhood of such manufactories? Would it not be worth the while of the undertakers to invite these people to come thither to settle?

So far has the cotton manufactures in this country got the better of those of Bengal, that in spite of the duties that were imposed on them, with no other intention, as many persons believe, than to favour the competition of the East India Company with our own manufactures, that there is reason to hope, from the following facts, the contest may be now reckoned fully decided. A gentleman, as I have been credibly informed, who lately returned from Bengal, brought over with him cotton goods to the value of one thousand pounds, prime cost in Bengal: these were lately sold at the East India Company's public sales, at a loss of three hundred pounds below the price they really cost, reckoning nothing for freight or outlay of money.

We want nothing now to give us a decided superiority in all the branches of this business, but abundance of *the finest* cotton wool, which is now scarce in Britain, and it is probable that article will not be long wanting. Africa is peculiarly favourable for the growth of the cotton plant.—The Sierra Leone

Company is now established. By the care of Dr Anderson of Madras, some seeds of the finest cotton India produces were sent to the Island of Saint Helena two years ago. There can be little doubt but they have there prospered, and that the plants before now have perfected their seeds. It is but a step from thence to Sierra Leone: How easily then may the seeds be transported thither! and this done, the business is completed.

MACHINE FOR SPINNING FLAX.

THE machine for spinning linen yarn near Leven in Fifeshire, is now at work, and is found to perform extremely well, tho' the owners have not yet attempted to make any fine yarn. They are now about to make trial of some of the best Dutch flax, and have no doubt of succeeding perfectly.—Of this machine, when fully perfected, a more particular account will be given in this work.

ABUSES RESPECTING REVENUE OFFICERS.

IT is with pleasure I am so often called upon thus to remark the advancement of manufactures in Scotland; but it is with still greater regret that I find it necessary so often to bewail the pernicious tendency of the revenue laws in checking the growing prosperity of the nation. The money that is paid in consequence of these revenue laws, constitutes the smallest part of this evil. It is the abuses to which the collecting of that money gives rise, the restraints upon the freedom of the manufacturer, the interruption to his business, and the vexatious prosecutions, fines, and forfeitures, with which he is perpetually threatened, that render these laws obnoxious in a free state. The men who are entrusted with the execution of these laws in the under departments, must in all cases be men of the lowest station and illiberal principles. In such hands, if a discretionary power be lodged, abuses will be felt, unless guarded against with the strictest care: and that such abuses too much prevail in Scotland, is a fact that admits of too frequent proofs, to be denied.

There was a time when the people of this country were unacquainted with the principles of trade, and were possessed of no manufactures: There was a long period, during which this part of the nation was subjected to a despotic government, and when the people were accustomed to bend with reverence

to the *dictum* of persons in power, and to submit to *their* mandates with the most passive obedience: There was a time when every servant of the servant of the Crown, down to the very lowest of their order, was deemed a sacred person, whose operations none durst challenge, far less controul: There was a time not very remote, when every revenue board thought it their indispensable duty to support their officers in every case, whether they had acted properly or not in the discharge of the functions of their office: There was a time, when these revenue boards thought they were authorised to allow the fines that Judges awarded against the officers of revenue for transgressions in the discharge of their duty, to be paid out of the public revenue of the Crown, instead of being paid by the individual who had transgressed the law: But now it is to be hoped these times are passed, and that as mankind are become more active and more enlightened, such servile principles will be held in detestation, and such improper modes of acting will be abandoned, as suiting only the days of barbarism and ignorance.

We can hardly suppose it possible that any board of revenue can now be so little informed, as not to know that the amount of the revenue paid by any number of people, must in all cases be proportioned to the degree of prosperity which that people do actually enjoy; we cannot suppose them to be so little acquainted with the duties of their office, as not to know that they are bound alike to guard against frauds that tend to diminish the king's revenue, and frauds that tend unjustly to distress the king's lieges; we cannot suppose them to be so blind as not to know, that where injustice shall be suffered to pass without redress by those who are put into office, expressly for the purpose of giving that redress, those who suffer by it in the present age will not complain of it as a hardship. They cannot be so short-sighted as not to see, that if these complaints become loud and general, they must and will be attended to elsewhere. It is impossible for us to conceive that all these things should not be obvious, and being obvious, that they should not be guarded against, by a strict and impartial administration of justice, when they are called on for that effect.

Liberty is the first and greatest blessing that heaven can confer upon a nation; but *licentiousness*, which so often assumes

its name, is the greatest curse. In proportion, therefore, as the one is cherished, the other ought to be repressed. Men advance not to licentiousness in any state, but by compulsion. When they suffer injustice in one instance, and are compelled to seek redress by the vigour of their own exertions, who can pretend to say, that after they have felt their strength, they will not try to make an improper use of it? Every wise government, therefore, will be studious, by a mild mode of administration, to prevent them from being ever compelled to try their strength in the time of reform; nor is any mode of conduct more easy, or more certainly efficacious, than this is. Every wise man will be anxious to see all appearance of an opposite conduct suddenly repressed, and I trust there is as much wisdom in this part of the country, as to make this wish general among those who have it in their power to carry it into effect, and prevent this business from being ever more heard of.

NAVAL AFFAIRS.

CAPTAIN JOSEPH BRODIE at Leith, several of whose ingenious inventions have been already mentioned in the Bee, continues to exercise his talents in the nautical line, which, if duly attended to, would prove highly beneficial to the public.

He is just now preparing, and has in great forwardness, a new nautical chart of the Eastern coasts of Britain, from the South Foreland northward, with many improvements, which his great experience on that coast, aided by a peculiar talent for accurate observation, has enabled him to make.

He has also finished a buoy of a new construction, on very ingenious and simple mechanical principles, which is calculated to carry a flag-staff of considerable height (with a flag upon it), which in every possible situation of the surge, will retain its perpendicularity; a discovery, the utility of which is too manifest to require to be pointed out. In some future number of this work, a particular description of this contrivance, illustrated with a plate, will be given.

He has likewise contrived a boat of a new construction, on which plan a vessel might be built of any size, and at a smaller expence than usual, and fit to undertake any length of voyage, that would only draw a very few feet of water, (a boat the size of a passage-boat at Leith, need not draw above two feet at most,) though there is every reason to believe, it

could go as near the wind, be equally steady, and sail quicker than any other construction of a vessel that has been hitherto adopted.

He is also constructing the model for a device for fixing firmly and at a small expence, a mast upon the *Bell* rock, so well known between the Firth of Forth and Holy Island, in such a manner as to remain perfectly firm, and to ring a bell continually, from whatever quarter the wind shall blow at the time. But some particulars of this contrivance he chooses not to discover at the present.

He proposes likewise to communicate to the public soon, through the channel of the Bee, or otherwise, some hints for easily extinguishing fires in vessels, which are also the result of practice and experience, aided by accurate observation of particulars.

In short, Britain has reason to be proud of possessing a person of so great talents, public spirit, and knowledge. But will she properly avail herself of these talents? Time will discover.

The Periods of the Sciences.

THE history of human learning has periods which are marked by the general prevalence of particular studies among the Literati of the time. The philosophers of the early period of Grecian literature attended chiefly to Mythological Morality. Among the authors of the most flourishing periods of Grecian and Roman literature, until the first Emperors, Poetry, History, and Oratory, were the prevailing subjects of attention. Under the latter Emperors, and for some time after, the works of the learned exhibit, for the most part, the history of Theological Controversies: to them succeeded Metaphysics and Metaphysical Theology. When these began to decline, the attention of the learned awakened to Alchemy, Magic Judicial Astrology, the doctrine of Signatures and Sympathies, the Mystick, Theosophick, and Rosicrucian Theology, and Physiognomy.—Then succeeded Classick Philosophy.—This gave way to Modern Poetry and Natural Philosophy, to which of late have been joined the studies of Rational Theology, Chemistry, the Philosophy of History, the History of Man, and the Science of Politics.

St James's Chronicle.

T. C.





Scale of 1" = 20' Feet

Design of the East Front of the New Building for the University of Edinburgh.
Robert Adams Architect.

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, October 26, 1791.

Account of the University of Edinburgh.

With a Plate representing the East Front of the New Building.

THE university of Edinburgh was founded by King James VI. anno 1598: being but poorly endowed, the teaching rooms were erected in a much meaner stile than those of any of the other Scottish universities.— From the death of James VI. till the revolution, the times were so troublesome that this infant seminary could not make a distinguished figure; but towards the beginning of the present century, Mr M'Laurin in philosophy, and Dr Alexander Monro the elder in anatomy, laid the foundation of that celebrity it has since attained. In the medical line, especially, Dr Monro having been ably assisted by the co-operation of Dr Rutherford the elder, Dr White, and others, it ac-

quired an eminent degree of celebrity, which under the auspices of the late Dr Cullen, Dr Gregory, and others who are still alive, came to be accounted the first medical school in Europe.

This university is distinguished from all others in Britain, by several particulars, which deserve to be pointed out, as having perhaps contributed not a little, at the same time to raise its celebrity as a medical school, and to render its teaching-rooms inadequate for the purpose wanted.

1st, The funds of the university are small, and unless it be those appropriated to the library, none of them are under the direction of the *senatus academicus*. This has greatly tended to promote peace in the university, and to banish those party cabals which have, in so many instances, rendered other learned societies contemptible.

2d, The *salaries* of the professors are very low : some of those of the first rank in the medical line are under fifty pounds a year ; by this means their chief emoluments result from the fees of their students. Thus it behoves them, to be so eminent in their profession as to induce students to attend their lectures ; otherwise they cannot enjoy that respect in society that their station requires. Hence it happens that no man who does not feel himself qualified for teaching with applause, can have any inducement to covet a medical chair in this university ; although, to a person properly qualified, the emoluments of office sometimes may exceed a thousand pounds a year.

3d, The *senatus academicus* has no power whatever over the students *ex cathedra*, nor are there any rules prescribed for the method of study, or any other particular ; every student being at entire liberty to live where or how he pleases, to attend whatever classes he inclines, and to be punctual or remiss in that attendance, as he thinks proper. The regulated fees are *three guineas* for each class. That of agriculture alone, which is one guinea, is an unfortunate exception.

As most of the students who attend here are intended to follow the business taught, as a means of earning their future subsistence, and have not much money to throw away; these are found much more powerful incitements to study than any other that ever have been devised. Hence the classes are much more faithfully attended than perhaps in any other part of the world, and of course the students advance in knowledge more rapidly than elsewhere. The only exceptions to perfect freedom of choice in this university, are an innovations of modern date, which was powerfully opposed by the late Dr Gregory, viz. a regulation that those who are to take out a medical degree here must have studied a certain number of years at this university, and must show that they have paid for the tickets of a certain number of the professors, before they can be entitled to receive a diploma; and another, requiring, that students of law shall show that they have attended particular classes a certain time, before they can be allowed to practise.

In consequence of these regulations, we find no squabbles among the professors about money-matters, no cabals in competition for places of emolument, no dependents of great men thrust into the chair from interest alone, no professors incapable of performing the duties of their office, and few involuntary fees exacted on any account. No distinction prevails here between the students and the people of the town, which is the source of so many squabbles in most other universities. They all live together in the most cordial familiarity. The students, by mixing in society a little, gradually rub off some part of that learned rust, and lose some of that overbearing self-sufficiency which they often contract when living in a state of seclusion from the world; and what is of much greater consequence, they avoid the temptations to fraud and other dishonourable tricks, so often adopted, to the perversion of morals, among young people, while compelled to live,

in numbers together, under severe restraint. The *pocket*, here, is the only bridle, and a powerful one it is; a bridle, which, in every station must be felt sooner or later; and which, in a land of freedom, is the most eligible, and perhaps the most powerful that ever could have been devised: nor can those who must be governed by it in the future part of their life learn its use too soon.

Under these regulations this university has prospered to perhaps an unexampled degree; but as the original buildings continued nearly the same as at the first institution, they were found to be extremely inadequate for the purpose intended, and some of the professors were under the necessity of renting other larger rooms for the purpose of teaching. Every student, indeed who has attended this university, must own that the teaching rooms were very inadequate for the purposes required.

The want of proper accommodation in this respect has been universally and loudly complained of for half a century past. These complaints being so general, and their justness more and more felt, as the elegance of other buildings in this place augmented, the desire of having an entire new set of public teaching rooms erected became universal. Mr Adams the architect was desired to give in a plan and estimate of an elegant structure for this purpose, to be erected on the site of the old buildings. He did accordingly produce one, which was unanimously approved of by the Magistrates of Edinburgh, the principal patrons of the university, and others to whom it was shewn. The expence of the whole was estimated to amount to about 60,000l.; and for defraying this expence, a public subscription was proposed, which was no sooner published than numbers entered their names with an unexampled liberality. About the sum of 20,000l. has been already subscribed; and it is not doubted but in time the whole sum wanted will be obtained. The building, in the mean time, is going on with rapidity.

The east, or principal front, an elevation of which is represented in the engraving that accompanies this number, is now, October 5, 1791, nearly half finished. The north side, in which a great many of the teaching rooms are to be included, is also in great forwardness; particularly the north-west corner, which contains the anatomical theatre, is nearly compleated; the walls having been carried to their whole heighth some time ago, and the roof being in part finished.

Some persons have objected to this plan, as more superb and expensive than was necessary: but when it is considered that this is a public work, which will be preserved to posterity as a monument of the taste and spirit of the times;—that the *Gymnasia*, and other public buildings in Greece and Rome, so much exceeded the stile of private buildings as to admit of no sort of comparison with them; that from the daily improvements in respect of elegance of building we see taking place in this metropolis, the probability is, were we to erect a structure rather beneath our own ideas at present, it would be condemned, in a very few years, as mean and inadequate. All these things considered, it will perhaps rather be thought to fall short, than to exceed, what it ought to have been.

As to the expence, let those who object to it, recollect, that when a public building is proposed, the utility of which is obvious and universally acknowledged, though the expence of its erection may appear disproportioned to the apparent funds for carrying it on, yet the spirit of the people in this country is such, as not to leave room to fear that the supplies will not be obtained. Never was an attempt seemingly more hopeless set on foot than the building of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, the foundation stone of which was laid by the patriotic George Drummond, when all the money that had been collected for building and endowing it amounted only to FIVE POUNDS: nor did ever a man meet with more opposition and obloquy for

the *supposed* expensiveness of that *hopeless* undertaking, as his opponents were pleased to call it;—yet this building was finished by public benefactions on the *expensive* plan he proposed, and is now praised as one of the most useful institutions, by the descendants of those who opposed it, and as having no other defect but being upon too small a scale. Let us ever advert that this country is in a state of great and rapid improvement. Let us look forward to what it probably *will be* in a few years. Let us have this in our eye in every public institution that is to endure for ages, and we need not despair.

Some Remarks on the Literary Character of George Buchanan.

THIS poet was born at a village in the county of Dumbarton, in the year 1506, and died at Edinburgh in the year 1582. The chief incidents of his life are related with modest and perspicuous brevity in a memoir written by himself about two years before his death, and commonly prefixed to his works. His inextinguishable genius burst through the darkest clouds of indigence and misfortune. In every country where he successively resided, his abilities inspired men of letters with admiration. *Buchananum omnibus antepono** was the expression of queen Elizabeth. Julius Scaliger pronounces him “the god of the learned.” Joseph Scaliger, in some verses on his death, speaks in terms of similar enthusiasm. Beza and other contemporary writers represent him as a prodigy of poetical merit. He was of a careless, frank, independent

* “I prefer Buchanan to all the world.” Walpole’s catalogue of royal and noble authors. Vol. i. p. 39.

disposition; and as poverty, or rather a neglect of money did not permit him to purchase, nor his temper to court applause, we may presume that it was sincere. *Poetarum sui seculi facile princeps* † has been the encomium bestowed upon him for two centuries by the general consent of Europe. "He was," says one of his editors, "so great a master of the elegance of the Latin language, that the blood of every Roman poet seems to have flowed in his veins ‡." "The happy genius of Buchanan," says Dr Robertson, "equally formed to excel in prose and in verse; more various, more original, and more elegant than that of almost any other modern who writes in Latin, reflects, with regard to this particular, the greatest lustre on his country." Of citing such attestations there would be no end. "The name of Buchanan," says the late Dr Samuel Johnson, "has as fair a claim to immortality as can be conferred by modern Latinity, and perhaps a fairer than the instability of vernacular languages admits."

In perusing this great man's compositions, the first circumstance which strikes us is his uncommon fertility. Though the greater part of his life was spent in the task of teaching,—a profession of which he bitterly complains, and though the history of Scotland, in which he has displayed such a profusion of excellence, might have exhausted a comprehensive mind, he has yet found leisure to write upwards of twenty thousand Latin verses, which are equal to three times the extent of the works of Horace. Of these verses, about one third are occupied in his translation of the Psalms, where he has wandered into twenty-nine different kinds of metre. In the variety of his numbers, there-

† "The first poet of his age."

‡ "Tantus erat Buchananus Latinitatis et elegantiae artifex, ut potius auctor quam imitator, utque omnium poetarum sanguis ejus videntur complere." Vid. preface to an edition of his version of the Psalms, printed at Edinburgh in 1737.

fore, he leaves every poet ancient and modern, at an immense distance ; and as if the genius of Rome had not sufficiently extended the limits of her language, he has employed a species of verse, which is said never to have been attempted by any former writer. He is constantly attentive to classical dignity of character.— Good sense predominates in every sentence. He is not one of those thoughtless compilers, in whom, to peruse twenty pages of elegance, or wit, we must wade through whole volumes of bombast, or buffoonery. We can never say *Interdum bonus dormitat Buchananus* ; for in the whole wilderness of his poetry, there are not, I believe, ten lines which his most judicious admirer could wish to be forgotten. I here speak of the intrinsic merit of the verses, without endeavouring to justify on every occasion, either his panegyric, or his censure.

As an herald of civil and religious liberty, our author deserves an ample share of the gratitude of nations. Never did the “rights of man” meet with a more ardent partisan, an advocate more acute, eloquent, philosophical, and sublime ||. The truly virtuous characters of antiquity he mentions with the veneration they deserve. But judgement never drops the reins to fancy. From his eye the splendour of conquest could not hide its deformity ; and when there fell in his way a Cæsar, an Alexander, a Xerxes, or a Charles the Fifth, the moralist set no bounds to his scorn and detestation. When, in 1552, the emperor was re-

|| On this head the public will listen with respect to a writer who has lately deserved and acquired their approbation. “The first man at the revival of letters, who united elegant learning to original and masculine thought was Buchanan, and he too seems to have been the first scholar who caught from the ancients the noble flame of republican enthusiasm. This praise is merited by his neglected, though incomparable tract, *De Jure Regni*, in which the principles of popular politics, and the maxims of a free government, are delivered with a precision and enforced with an energy, which no former age had equalled, and no succeeding has surpassed.”

pulsed with the loss of thirty thousand men from the walls of Metz, our author addressed Henry the second of France in an ode to which Horace can not often produce a parallel. Where every stanza is excellent, selection becomes an office of delicacy.— Having, with his usual impetuosity, reproached Charles as a monster more hideous than the Gorgon Sisters, or the Hydra, having placed in the most striking point of view, his barbarity, his ambition, and his power, he thus, in a transport of exultation, describes the anguish of the defeated tyrant :

Tu bellicosæ dux bone Galliæ
Sperare promptam cuncta superbiam
Compefcuisti : tu dedisti
Indomito laqueos furori.

Quis vultus illi ? qui dolor intimis
Arfit medullis ? spiritus impotens
Cum claustra spectaret Mosellæ
Et juvenum intrepidam coronam.

Sic unda rupes sævit in obvias,
Clausus caminis ignis inæstuat,
Hyrcana sic tigris cruento
Dente suas furit in catenas.

In English thus;

“ Thou worthy leader of gallant France hast blast-
“ ed that pride forward to hope for every success;
“ Thou hast fixed bounds to fury till now irresistible.
“ What were his looks ? What agonies convulsed
“ every nerve, when his impotent haughtiness beheld
“ the ramparts of the Moselle †, and her intrepid band
“ of youth ?
“ Thus rages a wave against opposing rocks ; thus
“ subterranean fire struggles for a passage ; thus the
“ Hyrcanian tyger champs his chains with his bloody
“ teeth.”

No reader will expect that the beauties of the original can be transfused into a prose translation.

† Metz stands on the banks of that river.

In his poem on astronomy also he has displayed his detestation of conquerors in just and philosophical verses. Having expressed his regret that the names of the first discoverers of that science had not been transmitted to posterity, he proceeds thus,—

At nos victuris potius committere chartis,
Barbaricum Xerxis factum juvat, armaque diri
Cæsaris, et facta Emathii scelerata tyranni :
At bene promeritos de vita hominumque salute
Negligimus Lethes tetra sub nocte jacentes.

“ But we choose rather to record the barbarous
“ pride of Xerxes, the victories of the direful Cæsar,
“ or the execrable actions of the Macedonian tyrant,
“ while we suffer the benefactors of mankind to lie
“ under the darkest shades of Lethe.”

Another prominent feature in the literary character of Buchanan was an aversion to popery. His instinctive abhorrence of monks, and his invincible impulse to brand them with infamy, produced some of the principal misfortunes of his long and active life. The quarrel began by his writing verses, at the request of James V. in ridicule of the Franciscans. After some short essays, too slight to satisfy the resentment of the monarch, he undertook the memorable satire entitled, *FRANCISCANUS*; which is probably, since the sixth satire of Juvenal, the most beautiful and perfect performance of that nature the world has ever seen. The King basely consented to his destruction. Buchanan fled into England, and addressed Cromwell, at that time minister to Henry VIII. in a short, but pathetic poem, describing the complication of miseries by which he was overwhelmed. He likewise inscribed to Henry himself an elegant copy of verses, which conclude with perhaps the finest portrait of a great and good monarch that ever was written. His applications were unsuccessful, and the verses remain a monument to the dishonour of the King and his minister. His experience of treachery in one sovereign, and of un-

generosity in another, may first possibly have inspired him with that disdain of royalty, and those levelling republican principles which formed, as it were, the essence of his soul.

It is true that our author has produced many beautiful panegyrics on some of the most eminent personages of his time; but these are to be regarded rather as the sports of imagination, as the labours of convenience or necessity, than as the offspring of voluntary choice*. He seems to have owed much of the happiness of his life to the universal veneration excited by his abilities. No man, perhaps, ever enjoyed a more numerous, illustrious, and affectionate circle of correspondents; and their attachment shows, that if he did not feel, he must at least have exerted, in an uncommon degree, the social virtues. Indeed, one or two poets excepted, none has excelled him in displaying the sensibilities of friendship, of gratitude, and of love. As a specimen of his talents in this line the reader may peruse part of an ode addressed to a young lady.

Camilla, multo me mihi carior,
Aut si quid ipso est me mihi carius,
Camilla, doctorum parentum
Et patriæ decus et voluptas;

Ni Gratiæ te plus oculis ament,
Ni te Camœnæ plus oculis ament,
Nec Gratiæ gratas, nec ipsas
Esse reat lepidas Camœnas.

Quæ virgo nondum nubilis, artibus
Doctis Minervam, pectine Apollinem,
Cantu Camœnas et lepore
Vel superes Charites, vel æques.

“ Camilla much dearer to me than myself, or than
“ whatever else is dearer to me than myself:—Camil-

* We are indebted for the Ode on Alexander's Feast to the impromptu of a Musical Club.

“ la, the glory and delight of thy learned parents, and
 “ of thy country ;—

“ Unless the Graces love thee better than them-
 “ selves, unless the Muses love thee better than them-
 “ selves, I deny beauty to the Graces, or eloquence to
 “ the Muses.

“ What virgin besides thee has, at such tender
 “ years, excelled in learning Minerva, in music Apol-
 “ lo and the Muses, and in wit equals or excels the
 “ Graces ?”

It is usual to say that we can distinguish an author by the peculiarities of his style, but this rule cannot apply to Buchanan. The best idea which can be conveyed of him to a mere English reader may be comprised in five words, “ Dryden always at his best.” Indeed there is a very striking resemblance in many points between these two poets. Both inherited from nature, in an equal degree, a most comprehensive understanding, and a most splendid fancy. In variety of numbers, and facility of metrical composition, they stand unrivalled in the respective languages in which they wrote. Of wit, that faculty, in whatever it consists of exciting laughter, both possessed an ample share ; yet their proper element was the serious and sublime. The smile of Buchanan is the smile of indignation ; and as Dryden’s taste was much less cultivated, his merriment sometimes degenerates into grossness. For the stage both possessed abilities respectable, but moderate. They were by nature, or by habit, better qualified for the dignity of declamation than the vivacity of dialogue. Both have many passages truly pathetic, but tenderness is not the predominant excellence of either. Both had studied human nature with close attention ; both abound with beautiful portraits of personal character, and the most instructive maxims for the conduct of life. But the profound learning of Buchanan, and his long residence in many different countries, afford him numerous advantages in point of force, va-

riety, and correctness. From the friend of Ascham and Scaliger, from the preceptor of a prince, and the president of a college, productions more classical might justly be demanded, than from the playwright of a licentious stage, the tool of an usurping priesthood, and the reluctant hireling of a bookseller. Both writers were long the poets of a court; both have left us an immense number of short temporary pieces, designed merely to please, entertain, or vex a few individuals, but forcing themselves on our applause by the merit of composition. The Scottish poet, at least, cannot be stigmatised as obscene; but both were fond of advancing to the utmost verge of decency. Both were by far the first satirists of their respective periods. Both possessed such inexhaustible talents for panegyric, and both were poetical translators of such supreme skill, that in either capacity they have hardly a single rival in the whole records of literature. But the operations of the poet must always take an impression from the manners of his age, and the temper of the man. Dryden seems to have been weak, indolent, and from levity almost incapable of principle or attachment. He is therefore often negligent, and whatever be his theme, he is in frequent danger of relapsing into a jest. On the contrary, his predecessor is grave, ardent, intrepid, and implacable. He never attacks by halves. His ridicule darkens into rage. He combats not for conquest, but extirpation. From the pontiff and emperor, to the pedagogue and the monk, the victim of his derision is held forth not only as the dullest, but the vilest of mankind. Every possible feature of vice and folly seems anxious to start from the canvass. With the abrupt dexterity of a veteran familiar to victory, he at once closes upon his adversary, tramples him, and tears him to pieces. The mind bends as it were under the grasp of his eloquence, and our admiration of the artist forbids us to question the justice of the likeness.—The annals of the sixteenth

century supplied incessant exercise for a mind addicted to the language of indignation and defiance. Buchanan was not only more steady in the exertion of his talents, but more fortunate in the objects of his choice. For the purposes of a laureate, Elizabeth and Mary were better adapted than the pensioner Charles, or the jesuit James. The foibles of the presbyterians present the mind with no image parallel to the scenes of imposture and debauchery so copiously described in the Franciscan. Even Monmouth and Shaftesbury were but pigmies of sedition, when compared with the stupendous atrocity of the house of Guise. In his address to the Cardinal of Lorraine, Buchanan bids him survey the price of his grandeur—a nation of widows and orphans—a country covered with blood and ashes—and sternly assures him, that to such a prodigy of guilt, hell must be a desirable refuge from the curses of mankind. These fallies offend not our feelings, for they consist with truth. But they would have been utterly inapplicable to the heroes of Absalom and Achitophel. On Ravilliac and Felton, the last century would not have endured an encomium; but no reader can be much disgusted when Buchanan refers, with gratitude, to the blunderbuss of Poltrot. Dryden wrote merely for money, to gratify his own passions, or those of his contemporaries. His taste had been early corrupted by the conceits of Donne and Cowley, and it was the summit of his ambition to please the audience of a play-house, or the concubine of a prince. Buchanan took his flight from higher ground. The greatest part of his life was spent, not behind the curtain of a theatre, but in the retirement of a college. He held the ancients ever in his eye. On every occasion however trifling, he seems to have been mindful of fame and posterity; nor did his meal depend on the caprice of a purse-proud tradesman capable of estimating his volumes only by their bulk. The distinction is easily discernible. Dryden is ever disturbing our tranquillity with

a detail of his talents and his sufferings, of persecuted virtue, and neglected merit. Buchanan, too proud for ostentation, never mentions himself or his writings, but in a tone of the most guarded propriety. His mind was superior to vanity or grimace, and yet more to that pitiful canting style, which pollutes the endless prefaces of the English Laureate. To the Dunciad or Macflecknoe there is nothing correspondent in the verses of Buchanan. Of contemporary poets he often speaks, but always in the kindest and most liberal terms. If he ever had any poetical enemies, the last traces of their existence appear to have been long since obliterated, for he never raised them into antagonists by condescending to revile them. This delicacy, which marks such a manly superiority to the petulance of some modern poets, deserves the higher praise, as we have seen that his passions were violent, his courage inflexible, and as he has left behind him full evidence that on every other topic from the civil wars of a kingdom, to the brawls of a bagnio, he was prepared and prompt for battle.

Edinburgh,
Oct. 11, 1791.

J. T. C.

On the American States.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

NO part of the world affords, at this time, a more pleasing prospect to the lovers of mankind than the United States of North America.—At the end of the late war, their population, by the accounts of Congress, amounted to less than 2,400,000. By an official statement, published in their newspapers in January last, it appears, that including 700,000 negroes, their inhabitants are now 4,000,000. Thus, in the course of

eight years their numbers have been almost doubled, and many causes must tend to produce an *increasing* rapidity of population. In reading the Gazette of the United States for four months of this current year, I observed not a single robbery or murder, and but one execution, that of an Irishman, at Charlestown in South Carolina.

Their taxes are trifling, their situation is in many respects better than it ever has been; and if in the course of eight years 2,400,000 people have multiplied to four millions, it follows by the same rule, that in the next ten years, they must, if circumstances continue the same, encrease to 8,200,000. But let us suppose, for the sake of moderation, that at the end of this century they are not to exceed 6,000,000; and if we compute, that, after that time, their numbers shall double only once in every twenty years, the sum total in the year 1900 must rise to 192,000,000*. We can have no doubt, that long before that æra, they will expel the European governments from every corner of both continents of America. The demand for British manufactures will, perhaps, encrease an hundred fold. The riches of Mexico and Peru will then, it is to be hoped, be laid open to the whole commercial world. The inestimable art of printing will preserve the fame of our classic authors with a security unattainable in former ages. It flatters the pride of a Briton to foresee, that in the days of our grandsons, the language and writings of Washington, Franklin, Dryden, and Shakespeare, will be studied and revered at the mouths of the Amazon, and the source of the Missouri.

* This number will at first sight appear extravagant; but as we see that the colonists at present have actually almost doubled their numbers in *eight* years, it is surely but reasonable to allow that they may hereafter continue to double them once every *twenty* years. In Canada, I have been well assured, that the inhabitants multiply as fast as in any other part of the continent: and the descendents of that great body of people, (besides those of Nova Scotia and the two Floridas,) are not included in the calculation of the text.

In the crowd of splendid circumstances which press on the fancy, it is one of the most pleasing to reflect, that the tyranny of priestcraft will be buried in final oblivion. The provincial assembly of Virginia had the glory of setting the first example to mankind of an universal and absolute right of conscience. Their edict on that subject deserves to be transmitted to posterity on brass and marble. With what amazement and horror will the Americans of the next century look back on our disgraceful history, during this memorable year, on the incendiaries of Birmingham, the jurors of Warwick, and some churchmen, worse than either, who vindicate persecution.

I was led into these reflections on the political progress of America, by a recent debate in our House of Commons, I mean that respecting the constitution of the government of Canada. Many long speeches were made, and many violent expressions were employed. But passing over the extreme impertinence of introducing the French revolution, I wish to ask the opposite parties this simple question; "Pray, gentlemen, how long do you expect to govern Canada†?" The province, as I have been well informed, contains at least 6 or 700,000 inhabitants, and it is perfectly known, that there is not a fiftieth individual who would fire a musket to save their rulers from extirpation.— That such a frail edifice has hitherto been suffered to totter on the surface of the political world can be ascribed to nothing but the moderation of the American congress. That it can exist for ten years longer, is, in the nature of human affairs, almost morally impossible. The disaffection of the inhabitants would alone be sufficient

† For some years past Lord Dorchester gave a general permission to the subjects of the United States to settle in Canada. An acquaintance of mine was assured by his Lordship's Secretary, that in 1788, forty thousand persons emigrated from the States into the southern parts of that province; and it is generally understood at Quebec, that the number of YANKIES, as we quaintly term them, settled in Canada, is sufficient to drive the English governor out of the country.

to produce our expulsion; and the present attempt to force upon them a kind of aristocracy can serve no purpose but to extinguish the last spark of their attachment.

It has been said, that this government costs Britain an annual expence of 600,000*l*. We raise no revenue from the country, and it would be much wiser to save this expence by leaving the inhabitants to fight and legislate for themselves. The loss of such an important patronage would give a severe probe to the mass of ministerial corruption. Perhaps, it might diminish by ten or twelve votes, a hireling majority in parliament; and even in this view alone it is an object of consequence to Britain. The loss of Nova Scotia must follow the revolt of Canada; and we shall be fortunate in casting off an expensive and useless appendage to our rickety dominions. If these people want our manufactures, they will buy them. The United States are as much our customers as they ever were *. And as to the fisheries at Newfoundland, we have, on the shores of Scotland, an abundant field for the exercise of our utmost industry. On this head, Sir, I warmly, with your permission, beg leave to recommend to the public your own book on the present state of the Hebrides and the western coasts of Scotland†. The reader will there see with astonishment, that half a million of people are shackled in idleness, and consequent beggary by the tyrannical mode of exacting salt duties, while the tax itself is so utterly insignificant, that it has never yet once refunded the bare expence of collection. In

* France, it was said, would obtain to herself, all the trade to America. 8 ships from New York, were cleared out to France in the year 1789. And 283 to Britain. Can a more satisfactory refutation of that wild hypothesis be given, see vol. iv. p.

† This gentleman, and every other person is at full liberty to use my writings, as he might do those of others, whether it be to refute, or to corroborate the observations that there occur. *Edit.*

the whole annals of despotism, we shall not perhaps find so strange an example of ruinous and absurd oppression.

Lismore,
October 1, 1791.

POCOCURANTE.

[The extracts will be given in a succeeding number.]

[Has not this ingenious correspondent, in some of his foregoing remarks, given his imagination rather too loose a rein? This will, perhaps, be best seen by following out his calculations, p. 240. a little farther.—If, instead of stopping at the end of one century, he had pursued his mode of calculating to the end of the second, third, or fourth centuries, the result would have been such as to make him suspect, at least, that there must be some fallacy in his mode of calculation. By pursuing this calculation till the last mentioned period, it will appear that America would then be possessed of a population of no less than 2,387,968,000,000 of souls, which is not much less than three thousand times more than the whole globe has ever been calculated to contain.

Before an hypothesis so repugnant to the universal experience of mankind in all other cases should have been assumed, care should have been taken that no mistake *could* have taken place with regard to the principal fact, which yet requires to be proved. If indeed it should be found, (a thing not highly probable,) that in such an extensive region the population had been doubled in eight or ten years, or even 15 or 20, every person must be sensible that this could only have happened in consequence of a very copious accession of strangers from other parts of the globe; for no mortal will entertain so wild an idea, as that it could have happened in the course of natural generation:—but if European nations are at present so blind as to drive away their inhabitants, that source must soon be dried up, from a defect of people; so that unless men spring up out of the ground, as in the days of Cadmus, or like mice on the borders of the Nile, nothing like what is here supposed could possibly take place. Before all this can happen, our correspondent must suppose another miracle of greater magnitude still, which is, that such immense millions of millions of people can continue to live free from corruption, vice, wars, and devastations.

On these accounts, therefore, though a very great deduction must be made from the amount of the supposed population of the American States, at any future period, yet there can be no doubt of the justness of the position, that if it does increase, its benefits as a market for European commodities will augment in proportion as that population increases; and that of course, if we take care to increase our own population, the employment of our people will be thereby augmented, and the strength of the nation, and the amount of its revenue, proportionally increased.]

EDIT.

On the Longivity of Animals.

THE length of life that animals would naturally attain, has been in few cases exactly ascertained. Domestic animals, for the most part, are either sacrificed for the purposes of œconomy, or destroyed by accident, long before they reach the period that nature had assigned to them; and wild animals, are but in few cases, the objects of accurate observation. It is merely from accidental circumstances that the natural duration of the life of either of these can be ascertained.

Of all domestic animals, the sheep, and the cat seem to be the shortest lived. The sheep at five or six years of age usually loses its teeth so much as to be able with difficulty, after that period to collect food sufficient for its subsistence; and few cats outlive the period of eight or ten years. The dog lives longer. I have had three dogs myself that all attained the age of fifteen or sixteen, and all of them suffered violent deaths at last. Another that died of old age, was known with certainty to be more than 21 years old, probably it might be a year or two more, but this could not be accurately ascertained. Many horses have been known to exceed thirty, and some, I think, have been known to live nearly half a century. The cow seldom continues to have good teeth beyond ten or twelve years.

But of all kinds of terrestrial animals, the feathered tribe seem to be susceptible of the greatest longevity. A tame goose has been known to live a hundred years, and swans are apparently equally long lived. Among the wild fowls a few accidental cases have been recorded, that tend to prove that they in general live very long. To which list I beg to add the following case, which I had from the most undoubted authority.

A great many years ago, Mr Scot of Benholm, near Montrose, had accidentally caught a sea gull (*vulgo* a *sea maw*,) whose wings he cut, and put it into his garden to clear it of slugs and other vermin of that sort. The bird remained in that situation for several years; and being kindly used, it became very familiar, so as to come, upon a call, to be fed at the kitchen door. It was known by the name of *Willie*. This bird became at last so tame, that no care was taken to preserve it, and its wings having grown to full length, it flew away, joined the other gulls upon the beach, and came back from time to time to pay a visit to the house. It followed its companions, however, when they left this country; at which the family were much disconcerted. To their great joy, however, it returned with them next season; and with its usual familiarity returned to its old haunt, where it was welcomed with great joy, and fed very liberally with the garbage of fish, its favourite food. In this way it went and returned for *forty* years without intermission, and kept up its acquaintance in the most cordial manner; for, while in the country, it visited them almost daily, answered to its name like any domestic animal, and eat almost out of the hand. One year, however, very near the period of its final disappearance, *Willie* did not pay his respects to the family, for eight or ten days after the general flock of gulls were upon the coast, and great was the lamentation for his loss; as they naturally concluded he must be dead. The gentleman from whom I had this fact, happened to be there on a visit at that time, and was witness to and cordially joined in their regret. But to the great joy of the whole family, a servant came running into the room one morning while they were at breakfast, in extasy, calling out that *Willie* was returned. The whole company got up from table immediately to welcome Willie, and the humane guest among the rest. Food was soon found in abundance, and Willie, with his usual frankness,

eat of it heartily, and was as tame as any barn-yard fowl about the house. In a year or two afterwards, this grateful bird discontinued his visits for ever, so that they concluded he must be dead, but whether of old age, or from accidental causes could never be ascertained. I did not learn that they discovered any symptoms of decrepitude or decline in this animal, seemingly the effects of age.

J. A.

Hints respecting Lord Kaims.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

I AM happy to learn that a gentleman of whose abilities and fidelity I entertain a high opinion *, is about to offer to the public a literary life of Lord Kaims upon the plan I suggested in one of my hints to the learned, inserted in your respectable paper †.

It is very far from my intention to interfere with the undertaking of an author, so much better qualified in every respect, than I am to give the annals of the philosopher, but only to obviate by the communication of a letter of Kaims's, the insinuation that has frequently been made in literary circles, that he was not the real author of the elements of criticism. That he had obtained the papers containing them from an obscure but ingenious and learned acquaintance, and had brought them in to popular form, and sold them to Andrew Millar without acknowledging, or properly rewarding the man who had the honour of the composition.

My dear Friend, Edinburgh, 26th June 1764.

In the elegance of conversation, and gaiety of amusement, are not you a felonious creature to take the ad-

* Mr Smellie of Edinburgh.

† The ingenious writer of this essay does not seem to know, that the life of Lord Kaims, to which he here alludes, is already published in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

vantage of me, the single inhabitant of a large house, plodding over law from morning to evening? 'Tis much (I think) even to relish the sprightliness of your epistle, which I do greatly, without the least hopes of making a suitable return. It would have been kinder to have saluted me with some puzzling law question to chew the cud upon, more suitable to my present occupation.

I must confess, however, that though my modesty will not allow me to wear the praises you bestow on me; yet, that my vanity is able to extract from your letter, a sort of flattery, which perhaps you did not intend; that is, that you must have some opinion of a man when you take advantage of him. But indeed my vanity is not so great as to make it difficult to yield you the upper hand with a good grace. I will tell you sincerely that you are one of the few young men of figure, whom I have destined in my own mind to be an ornament to your country; and it gives me real satisfaction to find that my expectations are in the course of being fulfilled. It is extremely happy for this narrow country of Scotland, that by our method of education, a man of rank and figure may be a good scholar, and at the same time a man of the world, and a fine gentleman. What superiority must this give our men of fashion above those in the other end of the island. I would suppress such ambitious thoughts: let us rather turn our whole attention to acquire useful knowledge, and to qualify ourselves for all the important duties of life: praise and esteem will follow, whether we think of them or not.

I had the good fortune to dine at N——y, with my namesake, on Saturday last. He promises fair, and will probably follow your footsteps. All I could do for him, to testify my love to you, was to promise him a ticket to our concert whenever he inclined. This is a mite, 'tis true, it is the widow's mite. If he follow the law, I may possibly be able to do more for him afterwards.

To tempt you to Scotland, if any thing I could offer could be a temptation, I have in store for you a treatise on morality, which, though composed for the use of my children, may deserve even your attention. If it will serve to fill up a blank in literary chat; you may inform that Treasury of all arts and sciences, Mr Andrew Millar, printer and bookseller, that *thy Elements* are at present under a strict revision for a third edition.

Your faithful friend, and obedient servant, though these do not well consist together, but the fashion is all,

HENRY HOME.

Now, though he does not here say *my*, but the Elements of Criticism, I have often heard him talk of the different steps he took to bring his common-place book on the subject, to a shape and consistency for a serious treatise, and I can hardly suppose it possible; that any writer of the book would tamely submit to the plagiarism supposed of even a senator of the College of Justice. Voltaire indeed, said, that if he was no better Judge than Critic, the Lord have mercy on the lieges of Scotland. But this is more witty than wise. The Elements have much merit, and many editions of a book on criticism are a sufficient proof of super-eminence.

I am, Mr Editor, your humble servant,

BIOGRAPHICUS.

Detached Observations.

The most amiable of all mankind, in our eyes, is he whom we have obliged, and who has a grateful sense of the obligation; provided, nevertheless, that his gratitude does not entirely repay it.

Often one wishes rather to repay one benefit by another benefit than by friendship, regard, attention, and gratitude.

For the Bee.

View of the Last General Judgment.

A Competition Piece.

" Venit summa dies."

VIRG.

THE day is come, that awful day,
When heav'n and earth shall pass away!
The comet's train, the meteor's blaze,
Strike guilty mortals with amaze;

Dire omens of th' approaching end!
The hostile elements engage,
And loud the rolling thunders rage!

Unheard-of woes to men portend!
The sick'ning sun withdraws his light;
'Tis chaos and primæval night!
Ye who th' almighty pow'r blaspheme,
O! read, and tremble at my theme!

Hark, the dread, tremendous sound!
Heav'nly glory shines around!
Earth with utmost horror quakes!
Heaven to its centre shakes!
God descends to judge his foes;—
Nature's changing scene to close!
'Tis th' archangel's voice I hear,
Bids the guilty world appear,
Christ's tribunal to attend,
By th' Almighty Judge arraign'd!

" Rise, rise, ye dead, awake to doom!"
Straight they issue from the tomb!
Th' affrighted living die with fear,
Th' obedient dead the summons hear!
Myriads from their slumbers rise,
And in troops ascend the skies!
See yon trembling band in tears!
There, enthron'd, the Judge appears!
In awful majesty he's come,

" With justice to reward and doom!"

My God! my God!—

Jesus, my Saviour, who was slain, }
To expiate the sins of men! }
Thousands of angels in his train! }

Those first and fairest sons of day,
 Boldly advance in bright array !
 Now, arrang'd on either hand,
 Lo, th' assembl'd nations stand !
 A multitude in number more
 Than sands upon the ocean's shore !
 Now th' impartial doom is giv'n !
 Th' omnipotent ascends to heav'n !
 Angelic hosts his throne surround,
 And choirs of saints with glory crown'd !
 Now th' avenging thunders roll !
 The livid lightnings flash from pole to pole !
 The planets " from their orbits fly,"
 Carried " lawless through the sky !"
 Nature's agonizing frame
 Is wrapt in the devouring flame !
 Well may the sun now spare his rays ;
 All, all's one universal blaze !
 Doleful shrieks, despairing cries,
 Screams of horror rend the skies !
 While, unmov'd, in heav'nly lays,
 Lo, the just their Saviour praise !
 Born to bliss, the saints arise ;—
 In triumph tread empyrial skies ;
 While, sinners, doom'd to death, descend
 'To woes which never, never, end !
 Blessed are they in God who trust ;
 For God in all his ways is just.
 He is the upright's sure defence,
 And justice will to all dispense.
 Then shall this truth be brought to light,
 With God, " whatever is, is right."
 Mighty God ! great king of kings !
 Thou, whose arm salvation brings ;
 Mercy with thy power display,
 In that dread, decisive day !

SOLO.

Song.

O SEEK not to repress the sigh,
 Nor check the tear that fills thine eye !

Those love-fraught eyes seem more divine,
 When the soft drops o'er pity's shrine,
 From pearly eyes divinely flow,
 To bathe the bruised heart of woe ;
 And lovely is the bosom's swell,
 Whose quick tumultuous heavings tell,
 That softest sympathy is there,
 And Laura's good as she is fair.

For the Bee.

Johnie's Trance.

JOHNIE was servant to the Laird,
 For whom he had a great regard ;
 Wi's master aye had been fu' happy,
 Tho' weel 'twas kend John lik'd his drappy ;
 But ae unlucky day for Johnie,
 H' forgather'd wi' an ancient cronie.—
 To drink they went as they were wont,
 Nor ever spent a thought upon't
 As lang's the bicker gaed about,
 Till time and cash and a' ran out.
 Now Johnie's time was far mispent,
 To find excuse to work he went ;—
 That a' might hae the face o' chance,
 John said he had been in a trance.
 “ And pray what saw you ? quo' the Laird,
 “ Come tell the truth and dinna spair'd :
 Quoth John, “ My tale is strange to tell,
 “ Yet no less true—I've been at hell !
 “ Where folk like me stand at the door,
 “ Wi' beggars' brats and many more ;
 “ It's there as 'ts here, for weel ye ken
 “ The richest ay won farrest ben.”

JOPA.

REVIEW.

Wool Encouraged without Exportation; or Practical Observations on Wool and the Woollen Manufacture; with Strictures on the antient state of it in this Kingdom, &c. By Henry Wansey; F. A. S. 8vo. Cadell. 1791. 3s.

IN imitation of the cuttle fish, which, when hard put to it, raises such a cloud about itself, that nothing can be clearly seen, many men, when they find themselves at a loss for arguments to support a party they have undertaken to defend, take care to throw every thing into confusion, misplace facts, mutilate quotations, disjoin circumstances that are naturally connected, and connect others together that have no necessary relation. By this means, they occasion such a confusion of ideas, that no person can follow them; taking care, at the same time, to make use of bold words and strong asseverations; at the end of every period they assert, that they have *proved* positions which they have not brought a single argument to support; and, as few people can take the trouble to set those things to rights that they have confounded, or to reduce that chaos to order, so as to be able to form a distinct notion of the whole; those who are of the party find no difficulty in persuading the indolent reader that the reasoning is profound. Thus it happens, that controversial performances of this kind, are held up to view by those of their own party as unanswerable, and are applauded as compositions of superior excellence.

Although it might happen that mankind fell upon this kind of arguing at first, by accident, yet the benefits that may be derived from it are so obvious, that it has, long ago, been reduced, in some measure, to a system; especially in Parliament. He who discovers the greatest ingenuity and dexterity in the use of this kind of argumentative legerdemain, has the best chance to rise to honours and emoluments, as a valuable *partizan* in the arduous war of words.

It is by no means improbable, that our author has some plan of this nature in contemplation, and that he has embraced the present opportunity to display the reach of his talents for this species of warfare, as a preparatory step to his being introduced into Parliament, in the capacity of an able

assistant to a political party in distress. It will not be denied, that his talents are, in this line, of a very superior sort; and there is little doubt but a discerning minister will soon perceive the use that may be made of such an able assistant.

If the author has had any other object in view than that above explained, it seems to have been a desire to convince his readers, that the growth of British wool, and its improvement in quality, cannot be prevented or retarded by the law prohibiting its exportation, but that it will be rather encouraged and promoted by that law. That is to say, that a man will be encouraged to produce a greater quantity of any article, and be at more pains to render it valuable, if he is to have a limited market for its sale, and a circumscribed competition of merchants, than if no restraints in either of these respects were put upon him. This position, when placed thus before the eyes of the reader, in its naked simplicity, is so inconceivably absurd, that the essayist, who is by no means destitute of penetration, perceived the necessity of wrapping it up in a cloud of words, the meaning of which, if they have any meaning at all, few persons will be able to discover.

The object he has chiefly aimed at in this performance is apparently to invalidate, to the utmost of his power, the state of facts respecting British wool, and the British woollen manufactures, that had been laid before the public by Dr Anderson, in the 4th Appendix to Sir John Sinclair's Report to the Highland Society on the subject of British Wool; but sensible as he was, that these facts could not be *fairly* controverted (for he has evidently made some researches on the subject), he has been reduced to the necessity of wading in the confusion he has created. While he admits, in the fullest manner, the truth of every position Dr Anderson has there assumed, (the influence of the prohibitory wool laws alone excepted), he has endeavoured, by every art he could devise, to weaken the force of the arguments, which alone tend to establish the truth of the positions he himself has admitted: so that supposing all he contends for should be granted, it would not advance his argument in the smallest degree, but only leave his own positions destitute of support.

Thus, Mr Wansey allows in the most unequivocal manner, that "English wool before the year 1579 was superior in quality to Spanish wool, and sold in a fair market at a higher

price;" but instead of admitting, as a proof of this, the strong fact Dr Anderson adduced, viz. that certain Spanish merchants claimed from the Court of Britain the price of some wool that had been taken by an English privateer, in the year 1470, on its way to the Netherlands; stating in their memorial, that this wool would have been worth in the Netherlands 4l. per sack, *weighing one quintal Spanish*, which is equal to 9l. 12s. per sack of 364 lbs. English; while the best English wool sold then in the Netherlands at 18 or 20l. per sack. He contends that the Spaniards did not know the weight of their own wool; and that instead of a *quintal* as they say their sacks contained, he maintains that this same sack of theirs must have weighed 364 pounds; the English sack being, according to his assertion, the universal measure for wool over all the world!!!

Again, Dr A. had stated a fact on the authority of Rapin, viz. that, anno 1338, 10,000 sacks of English wool had been sold at 40l. each. On this article Mr W. says, "it is easily proved that Rapin (from whom he quotes) mistakes pounds weight for pounds sterling." The best answer to this assertion is to quote the passage itself; which runs thus: "In November last, he (the King) sent the Bishop of *Lincoln*, and the Earls of *Northampton* and *Suffolk*, with 10,000 sacks of wool into Brabant, to make retainers in High Germany, and there, at the same time, *they sold all their wool, every sack for 40l. which amounted in all to 400,000l.*" If these words be not clear and express, I know not where they will be found in any language. It is indeed true that the King took, in kind, not 40 pounds only of wool from each sack belonging to his subjects; but much more at that time; and the wool he had thus taken he made up into sacks, which were afterwards sold for the money there mentioned. A few other instances of this author's mode of reasoning shall be adduced, but shortened as much as possible, to avoid proving tiresome.

Though he admits that Spanish wool was so much inferior to British wool, that in the days of Henry II. a law was made, ordering all British cloth, in which Spanish wool was mixed, to be burnt. He is very unwilling to allow that any cloth of value was made of that wool in Britain, or that the wool itself sold at a higher rate than other wool, or was coveted by other nations. He produces *Hume* and *Henry* as authorities to prove that sheep were very rare in England during the 9th,

10th, 11th, and 12th centuries, forgetting that Hume had expressly said, that in the time of Edward I. "the wool in Great Britain was equal to half the lands in England;" and that Spelman, whose words are quoted in the margin, had said nearly the same thing*. He represents England as being nearly destitute of sheep during the Saxon times; and says, that hogs were almost the only animals that could then be found; quoting Doomsday Book for this fact, (a most convenient book to be referred to for purposes of this sort, as it is not in every person's hands for consultation). But he has omitted to mention that Edward the elder was married to *Egwinia*, said to be a *shepherd's* daughter, which, whether true or false, shows that the popular opinion was so: And shepherds could not be without sheep. He contends that the manufacture of wool was never an object of any national consideration till after the time of Edward III. But he forgets to account for the general prejudice so long ago established of calling every unmarried woman in Britain a *spinster*. If the practice had not been general, how could they have stumbled on this incongruous appellation? or how could Jervase of Canterbury, who lived about the 1200, have been so far mistaken on this subject, as to say, that "the art of weaving seemed to be a particular gift bestowed upon the people of Great Britain by nature?" so distant at that time seemed to be the origin of it. He quotes an Act of Parliament of 3d Edward III. prohibiting the exportation of wool; but he omits to mention, that that act was to be in force only *till otherwise ordained*; that is, the King should have it in his power to obtain a monopoly of the sale of wool when he pleased, to answer his own purposes; or to extort fines for private licences to export wool: and these were granted in abundance immediately after passing that act. He might have quoted perhaps twenty such laws, had he been desirous of it; all made with the same intention, while

* Spelman is still more precise and accurate in his distinctions: He says, "Hæc ruris pars, ut occidentis reliqua, pascentis ovibus magnopere exponitur. Pleræque villæ, aut unum, aut duo, aut tria, interdum quatuor vel quinque millia nutrant; ut intelligas *proceres Angliæ* apud Ed. I. de vestigali lanis imposito conquærentes, consulto affirmasse, *opum regni dimidium in lanis consistere.*" *Reliq. Spelm. p. 162.*

notwithstanding wool continued, without dispute, the chief article of export from the kingdom. He says, that the first subsidy that was laid on *cloths* exported, was anno 1452, though he might have known, that in the year 1346 the Commons in Parliament petitioned the King that the duties on *cloth* exported might be taken off; which was refused. He contends, that the export of cloth from Britain was next to nothing till the days of Richard II. and Henry IV. when *some* cloths were exported to the *Baltic* only in return for fish, which were soon on the decline. But he forgets to remark, that anno 1245, when commerce was prohibited *cum Vallenfibus*, among other articles enumerated are, *aliquot genus victualium, ferrum vel acerum, vel pannum*; also, that anno 1362, merchants aliens were forbid to transport *woollen cloths*, except merchants of *Almaigne* and *Gascoin*: And that anno 1389, on account of certain abuses prevailing in the manufacture of cloth, there specified, it is said, "that merchants that buy the same, *and carry them out of the realm to sell to strangers*, be many times in danger to be slain, and some times imprisoned, and put to fine and ransom: Therefore, it is ordained that no plain cloth, tacked and solded, shall be set to sale." Nor does he take notice, that by the *intercurfus magnus* concluded anno 1496, the Emperor stipulates "to remit the duty of one florin, he had been *in use* to levy on each piece of English cloth imported into the *Netherlands*;" by which it is plain, that the exports of cloth thither had been before that time considerable, and long *in use*.

He represents the woollen manufacture during the war of the Roses as gone entirely into decay, and asserts that our *wool* was then exported to an *unlimited* extent: yet he admits, that by 14th Henry VI. neither wools nor wool fells shall be exported, except to Calais, at that time a part of the King's dominions: That by 3d Edward IV. no alien shall export wool, &c. but he does not advert, that by 1st Edward IV. it is enacted, "That all woollen cloths made in any other region brought into England shall be forfeited to the King:"—and that by 7th Edward IV. "no person shall carry into parts beyond sea, any woollen yarn, *or cloths not fulled*, and made within this realm, upon pain of forfeiture."

He says, Henry VII. *established* the company of merchant adventurers, whose sole business was the exporting of cloths,

which, he justly says, was a great benefit to England; but he suppresses the well known fact, that this company was originally *established* by the 8th Henry IV. for the express purpose of exporting cloth; and that Henry VII. did no more than *renew* their old privileges, as had been done before by his predecessors, viz. 1st Henry V. 8th Henry VI. 4th Edward IV. and 1st Richard III. which shows that this company had been in existence, and active in their business of exporting cloth, during almost the whole time of the war of the Roses. He gives a long detail of the act granting to James I. a subsidy on wool for life; and represents it in such a light as to make it seem this was the first grant of the kind that had ever been given; as if it were not a notorious fact, that the same subsidy had been granted for life to Elizabeth, as well as to her predecessors, from the days of Edward III. almost in the very same terms. He even goes so far as to assert, p. 43. that “*no wool was exported in Elizabeth’s time!!!*” He puts great faith—great faith indeed—in the ignorance of his readers.

If there had been any thing that was not very generally known, communicated in the desultory hints that are scattered throughout this work, respecting the woollen manufactures of Greece and Rome; of Persia, Palestine, and the antediluvian world; on the expulsion of the Moors from Spain; the calcination of sheeps bones; the manufacture of artificial stone, and various other particulars, equally foreign to the subject; they might at least have afforded matter of amusement to the curious reader; but as they are, they only serve to add to the bulk of this chaotic mass, and to contribute their share in distracting the attention of the reader from the real object of discussion.

To follow this *Will o’ the wisp* through his wide and devious course, would be an unprofitable labour. To refute his various unfounded assertions, would be an ungracious task; and, to quote all the authorities that might be adduced in confirmation of the positions he attempts to controvert, would fill a volume. In general, only, it may with truth be said, that there is not one argument adduced in this pamphlet, that tends to invalidate a single position in the essay he endeavours to refute; and these positions might be supported by many other striking facts, were it thought necessary to adduce them. Of his own hypothesis, the following may serve as a specimen:

This author admits, as has already been said, that British wool was originally much finer than Spanish wool. He also allows that Spanish wool is now much finer than British wool. The original sheep of Spain, he represents as carrying only a very coarse wool, unfit for being wrought into cloth, and incapable of being thickened. The improvement of the Spanish wool, he *attributes entirely* to the permission that was given by King Edward IV. in the year 1465, to King John of Arragon, to transport into his dominions *five* rams and *twenty* ewes, of the Cotswold breed. And the debasement of British wool, he *says*, has arisen entirely from the improvement of our pastures, and the introduction of turnips; which, he *asserts* (a mode of arguing very convenient on some occasions) tends greatly to debase the quality of the wool; although from the few *experiments* that I have made on this subject, it would rather seem that these tend to improve it.

To a sober thinking person, no answer is requisite to refute these notions. It may, however, have its use, simply to observe, what cannot have escaped the notice of this gentleman, that it is not the wool of *Arragon* that constitutes the *fine* wool of Spain, but that of *Castile*, which was a separate kingdom for many years after the transaction he mentions. But I shall produce another, and a much more satisfactory proof, that he is entirely mistaken in all his *conjectures* respecting the nature of Spanish wool in antient times, and his fanciful idea of its mode of improvement. I have just now before me a description of Spain, which was written in Arabic, about the year 730, by *Abulcacin Tarif Abentarique*, who was one of the Moorish officers who assisted in the conquest of Spain; which was translated into Spanish by *Miguel de Luna*, Arabic interpreter to Philip II. of Spain, and printed in Granada, in one volume 4to, in the year 1599. This author thus mentions the sheep of Spain: "There are, says he, in this kingdom (Spain) a great many sheep carrying fine wool, which are reared in such quantities, that its native inhabitants never are in want of flesh for their sustenance. They also make of the wool of these flocks *much fine cloth*, of all colours, for their vestments*." In another place, speaking of the

* In case I be accused of mistranslating, the original is here inserted. "Ay en este reyno de Espana muchos ganados ove-

clergy, he says, "they are clothed in large robes of *fine woollen stuff* †." And, in a description of the same kingdom, written in the year 715, by *Muza el Zanbani*, governor of Spain, to the *Calif, Jacob Almanzor*, he thus describes the natives of that country, which had been so lately conquered: "Its inhabitants are a warlike people, and display great spirit in battle,—the men and women are of middle stature, very beautiful and discreet,—their government and civil polity being well administered,—*they are clothed in fine woollen*,—they are fond of the military art—and breed many and very fine horses, &c." ‡

These are proofs sufficient, that there was much fine wool then reared in Spain, and that it was manufactured into fine cloths, many ages before the period that our author would persuade his readers they borrowed their breed of fine woolled sheep from Britain.

Mr W. also boldly asserts, p. 9. that the fine-woolled sheep of Spain "is a mere carrion, and never eaten"!! Where the author learnt this very curious fact he best can tell. But I have been taught a very different lesson by the author just now quoted; for he says, "that the mutton of the native sheep of Spain is so excellent as to be compared, for delicacy, to the pullets of Alexandria §." If therefore the flesh of their sheep be now so bad, it must have been debased when their wool was improved by our Cotswold breed: And who is so ignorant as not to know that our small hill and down sheep affords mutton that is *mere carrion and cannot be eaten!!!* To attempt to refute such idle tales would be an affront to the understanding of the reader.

jas y carneros de *finá lana*, y se crean en tanta contidad que jamas tienen necesidad de carnes sus naturales moradores para su mantenimiento. *Tambien bazen de la lana deste ganado muy FINOS PANOS para su vestir de todos colores.*" p. 61. part 2.

† "Tienen sus clérigos y religiosos; andan *vestidos con ropas de fina lana*, bien largas." Ib. p. 49.

‡ "Sus moradores son gente bellicosa, y muy animosos para la guerra; las mugeres y hombres son de mediana estatura, muy hermosos y discretos tienen en sus republicas bien govierno y pulicia; andan vestidos de *finá lana*; son amigos del arte militar, y assi crean muchos y muy buenos caballos." Ib. part 2. p. 69.

§ His words are: "Los carneros deste reyno de España su carne es de tan buen mantenimiento y substancia como las gallinas de Alexandria." p. 6.

Upon the whole, this pamphlet discovers considerable ingenuity in its author. He has contrived very effectually to perplex a subject that had been presented to him in a plain and intelligible point of view, which may render it very unintelligible to those who look into this work for information, and may engender a great many false notions that can only tend to bewilder the candid inquirer, and mislead the indolent legislator.

If the intention of the author was to convince the *attentive* reader, that the present system of wool laws are not pernicious to the country, he has failed in his aim; for he has not produced a single fact that tends to corroborate that opinion, nor a single argument, if *bold assertions* are to be excluded, which, if duly weighed, does not militate against it.

N. B. The author has taken some very unwarrantable freedoms with the character of Dr Anderson, of which he thinks it beneath him to take any farther notice, than barely to observe, that the facts he has stated are before the public; and will be corroborated by others long after Mr Wansey and himself are both in their graves. The little room that could be spared for this article, has been appropriated to the production of a very few other facts, illustrative of the same general principles.

Proceedings in Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Westminster Election.

[*Though it is by no means our intention in general to take notice of petitions to the House of Commons complaining of undue elections, yet the following petition is so different from any that has ever heretofore been presented to the House of Commons, and it will serve to give to strangers such a singular view of the nature of that liberty enjoyed by the subjects of this country, that it may well be entitled to rank as an exception to a very general rule.*]

Thursday, December 9. 1790.

MR MARTIN delivered in the following petition.

“To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled :

The Petition of John Horne Tooke, Esq;

“ Sheweth,

“ That your petitioner now is, and at the time of the last election for Westminster was, an elector for Westminster, and

a candidate to represent the said city and liberty in the present Parliament. That in the said city and liberty there are seventeen thousand, two hundred, and ninety-one householders, rated in the parish books, unrepresented in Parliament, and without the means of being represented therein; although, by direct and indirect taxation, they contribute to the revenue of the state very considerably more than those who send a hundred members to Parliament. That, at each of the three last elections for Westminster, (viz. in 1784, in 1788, and 1790,) notoriously deliberate outrage, and purposely armed violence, was used; and at each of these elections murder was committed; That, for these past outrages, as if there were no attorney general, no government, no legislature in the land, not the least redress has been obtained, not the least punishment, nor even the least censure, inflicted; nor has any remedy whatever been appointed, or attempted, to prevent a repetition of similar outrages in future: That, at the election for Westminster in 1784, a scrutiny was demanded in behalf of Sir Cecil Wray, which was granted on the 17th of May 1784, and, with the approbation or direction of the then House of Commons, was continued till the third of March 1785, when a very small comparative progress having been made, (viz. through the small parish of St Anne, and not entirely through St Martin's, leaving totally untouched the parishes of St George, St James, St Margaret, St John, St Paul, Covent Garden, St Mary le Strand, St Clement, and St Martin le Grand,) the said scrutiny was, by the direction or approbation of the House of Commons, relinquished without effect, after having lasted ten months, and with an expence to Sir Cecil Wray of many thousand pounds more than appears, by some late proceedings in chancery, to be the allowed average price of a *perpetual seat in the House of Commons, where seats for legislation are as notoriously rented and bought as the standings for cattle at a fair.*

“That, on the election for Westminster, in 1788, there being an absolute and experienced impossibility of determining the choice of the electors by a scrutiny before the returning officer, a petition against the return was presented to the then House of Commons, by Lord Hood; and another petition also against the return was presented by certain electors of Westminster; and a committee was in consequence appointed, which commenced its proceedings on Friday, April 3. 1789, and continued till June 18, 1789, when the committee, as able and respectable as ever were sworn to try and determine the matter of any petition, on their oaths, “Resolved, that, from the progress which the committee have hitherto been enabled to make since the commencement of their proceedings, as well as from

an attentive consideration of the different circumstances relating to the cause, a final decision of the business before them cannot take place in the course of the present Session, and that not improbably the whole of the present Parliament may be consumed in a tedious and expensive litigation." "Resolved, that, from the necessary length of the proceeding, and from the approach of a general election, which must occur not later than spring 1791, (nearly two years more,) the prosecution of the cause, on the part of the petitioners, promises to be fruitless, as far as it respects the representation of Westminster in the present Parliament. Resolved, that it be recommended to the petitioners to withdraw their petitions, under the special circumstances of the case." That, notwithstanding this extraordinary, and, perhaps, unparalleled application from a court of justice to its suitors, Lord Hood, and the other petitioners, having refused to withdraw their respective petitions, the proceedings of the committee continued till July 6. 1789, when a very small comparative progress having been made, the petitioners, from a conviction of the impossibility of any decision by the committee, were compelled to abandon their petitions, without any effect, or tendency towards effect, after a tedious and expensive litigation of three months and three days; and with an expence to the petitioning candidate of more than 14,000*l*.

"That, under these circumstances, as the petitioner declined demanding a scrutiny before the returning officer, so is he compelled to disclaim all scrutiny before a committee of the House of Commons. For although the act of the 10th of Geo. III. by which the said committee is appointed, recites, in its preamble, that, "Whereas the present mode of decision upon petitions complaining of undue Elections or returns of members to serve in Parliament, frequently obstructs public business, occasions much expence, trouble and delay to the parties, &c. for remedy thereof, &c." yet it would be less expensive, and less ruinous, to the petitioner, to be impeached, even according to the present mode of conducting impeachments, and to be convicted too of real crimes, than to be guilty of attempting to obtain justice for himself, and the injured electors of Westminster, by the only mode which the new remedial statute of the 10th of Geo. III. has appointed for that purpose, however well adapted that mode of decision may be to settle the disputed claims of the proprietors of small boroughs, for whose usurped and smuggled interests alone, the framers of that bill, and of those bills which have since been built upon it, seem to have had any real concern.

"That by the 9th of Anne, chap. 5. the right of electors (before unlimited by qualification in the objects of their choice) is restricted, in cities and boroughs, to citizens and burgesses re-

spectively, having an estate, freehold or copyhold, for their own respective lives, of the annual value of three hundred pounds above reprises. That this very moderate restriction, however vicious in its principle, leaving all citizens and burgesses eligible possessing life estates, freehold or copyhold, of the annual value of three hundred pounds, will henceforth serve only as a snare to the candidate, and a mockery of the electors, if such candidate, possessing a life estate of three hundred pounds a-year, must expend fifty thousand pounds (and there is no probable appearance that a hundred thousand pounds would be sufficient) in attempting, by a tedious, expensive, and ineffectual litigation, to sustain the choice of his constituents, and to prove himself duly elected.

“That, though your petitioner complains, (as he hereby does) of the undue election and return of Lord Hood and the Right Honourable Charles James Fox to this present Parliament for the city and liberty of Westminster, yet is your petitioner, by a persecution and proscription of more than twenty years, disabled from making that pecuniary sacrifice, which, by the present new mode of investigation, is (but ought not to be) necessary effectually to prove such undue return; and yet your petitioner fully trusts, that, notwithstanding a very great majority of the House of Commons (for so it still continues to be styled) are not, as they ought to be, elected by the commons of this realm, in any honest meaning of the word commons, and must therefore naturally and necessarily have a bias and interest against a fair and real representation of the people; yet your petitioner fully trusts, that he shall be able to lay before a committee, chosen and sworn to try and determine the matter of this petition, evidence of such a nature, as that the committee will, on their oaths, think proper to report to the House some resolution, or resolutions, other than the determination of the return; and that the House will make such order thereon as to them shall seem proper. And your petitioner doubts not, that, as an elector, at least, he shall, in consequence, receive such redress, as will be much more important to him, and to the electors of Westminster, than any determination of the return.

JOHN HORNE TOOKE.”

When this very singular petition had been read, *Mr Pultney* said, every petition complaining of an undue return, and proposing to investigate the merits of that return, the House was bound to receive, and appoint a committee to consider; but it did not appear that this petition did in any part propose to investigate the merits of the return; for which reason, he thought the petition ought to be rejected in the first instance.

On the motion of *General Burgoyne*, the petition was read a second time.

Mr Jekyll thought the petition was highly injurious to the House. He said it was a scandalous and libellous composition, which deserved to be severely censured. He was therefore of opinion, that the petition ought to be dismissed with every mark of contempt, and moved, "that it be rejected accordingly."

This motion was seconded.

The Master of the Rolls said, as the petition certainly complained of an undue return, it was from that circumstance entitled to a hearing, however improper it might be in other respects.

The Speaker said, the petition was a most impudent and indecent attack on the character and dignity of the House. It was unprecedented, which might induce hesitation about the proper mode of proceeding; he thought it ought to be reprobated as an outrageous violation of the respect due to the House.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was just come in, desired that the petition might be read a third time, which being done, he said, that though it was justly entitled to censure, yet, on this occasion, he conceived the House had no choice; they were bound to adhere to the letter of the act, and were not at liberty to use their discretion.

Mr Bearcroft, though he admitted that the House were not at liberty to use their discretion, when a proper petition was presented, yet he considered the present as not coming under that denomination, and was for rejecting it in the first instance.

The Master of the Rolls began now, he said, to think with *Mr Pultney*, that the petition did not contain any complaint that tended to bring the question to an issue, and thought it might be dismissed.

Colonel Hartley agreed with the two former speakers.

Sir William Young concurred in opinion with them.

Mr Fox said, it might perhaps appear improper in him to rise on this subject, but he was convinced he should speak without bias. He said it was necessary in this case to proceed with caution. The people were jealous of their privileges; and justly. The intention of the law authorising the House to appoint a committee for trying elections, was evidently to take the power of deciding from the House at large; but if they were to exercise their discretion in admitting or rejecting petitions in the first instance, they would assume a power that the act evidently intended they should not exercise. From this consideration, whatever might be the libellous nature of the petition, he thought they could not legally prevent it from going to a committee.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer concurred entirely with him in this point, and after a few more observations, it was ordered to be taken into consideration on the 4th of February.

(*The proceedings in this case to be concluded in our next.*)

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, November 2, 1791.

ON WIT.

[Competition Piece.]

To the Editor of the Bee,

"There are whom Heav'n hath blest with stores of Wit." POPE.

SIR,

GOOD definitions are the necessary foundation of all accuracy of conception, and justness of argument. Whether Wit may properly be called the knowledge of causes, relations, and effects; whether, with the poet, we are to say it consists in expression, or with Mr Locke, that it is the art of distinguishing resemblances in objects which differ from each other, I shall not now be at the pains to enquire. It is the peculiar felicity of the wit of which I speak, that it is of so multifarious a description as to be beyond the power of definition, and

so commonly exerted as not to stand in need of it. Indeed its nature may be explained by its effects; and such is the difference between this and the ideal learned wit before mentioned, that the degree of it, in any given instance, may always be most accurately ascertained by the distortion of muscles which follows from it, or the loudness of the laugh which it provokes. The multitudes of those who wish to obtain it, the eagerness with which they strive, the exultation they manifest, and the many real sufferings they will undergo for its sake, all conspire to furnish striking arguments for the importance of the excellence which I am recommending. And there is another proof of its importance, if possible, still more convincing. Moralists, when they wish to inculcate a virtue, often insist upon this argument, and a very good argument it is, that what they recommend will abide with its possessor in the loss of other things, and compensate for the want of them. Now, how strikingly does this apply to wit, which, by the common consent of mankind, not only makes up for other deficiencies, but seems even to shine the brightest, when no other excellence supports it; which can make a man pleased with himself without a grain of virtue, and please others without a grain of common sense. Of such importance is Wit.

Purposing to treat of it in the most methodical manner, I shall, in the first place, mention the different kinds of which it consists, and, secondly, give some directions for the attainment of it. Philosophers, indeed, have seemed to intimate, that Wit is a stable and permanent thing; but I shall endeavour to prove, in opposition to these philosophers, that it is quite the contrary;—that not mercury is more volatile, not less changeable the wind.

Of these kinds there are three more especially famous;—the wit of a scholar, the wit of a man of fashion, and the wit of a country squire.

The wit of the scholar is sometimes your dry wit ; but the chief excellence of it lies in being as little understood as may be. What would become of Wit if we always knew where it lay ? Where would be those bursts of mirth which set the table in a roar ; those merry chinkings, those widely extended mouths, speechless in all the extasy of laughing, were it not from some cause unknown ? Yes ; the Wit of which I speak depends not upon words finely set together, nor upon sparkling sentiments, which grow stale by repetition, and pall upon the sense ; it depends upon nature and natural sympathy, like electric fire it darts from link to link, from breast to breast : its cause is deep as philosophy, and like the larum, it rattles till it is down. The only danger is lest we should wholly fail in our attempt : but the prize is great, and we cannot hazard too much for it. Happy would it be for us, if we can adopt the language of that honest gentleman who could say, he was equally well pleased whether the company laughed with him or at him.

The wit of men of fashion is quite another thing. All the beauties of affected misunderstandings, the delicate double *entendre*, are theirs : their's is the witty pun, and verses jingling in all the oddities of rhyme. I cannot, however conceal, that none of these are necessary qualities of this species of Wit ; since they may be, and, in fact, often are, dispensed with in favour of another ingredient, namely, *swearing* ; a term which perhaps may need some explanation.—Swearing consists of a number of words, not forming a complete sentence, but thought to have a peculiarly grateful effect upon the ear, and supposed to unite in a small compass all the quintessence of gaiety, sentiment, and Wit. Scholars, indeed, are vehemently against this figure, and never make use of it. They pretend to say, that the words alluded to by no means answer this description, but are naturally harsh and discordant ; that they have no reason in them ; that the silliest of

men may make use of them, and that the wise never will. I shall not take upon me to decide upon the controversy. Let every one judge for himself, after having faithfully consulted both sides of the question. I must, however, remark, that I am of opinion with a very learned author, that terms more striking may be found, and that the words *bottle* and *glass*, for instance, if introduced into every sentence, with that variety of modification of which they are capable, would most certainly produce a much wittier effect. It is out of a desire to bring the wit of men of fashion to its highest perfection that I would earnestly recommend them, without delay, to substitute these words instead of the other.

The wit of the country squire is the last species I mentioned, and it is essentially different from the other two. It consists of a complete round of merry stories, treasured up in the brain, and brought forth as occasion may serve. There is great difficulty, however, in introducing them properly. *Hic labor hec opus est.* The most adroit man at this that I know, is my old friend John Vickerbank, Esq; member of Parliament, who having but two favourite stories, and both unfortunately on the same subject, if the company happen to be talking of smoking chimnies, Irish blunders, no matter which, or what used, when it came to his turn to speak, most constantly begins with these words;—"This puts me in mind of a very good story about a horse." Youthful feats of hunting, slings at the parson of the parish, and one or two funny tales about the hardships of schools, might furnish a complete circle of witticisms, and enable a man to live in the country with credit. I forbear, however, to enlarge in description here, from this consideration, that those who have been in the way of hearing these things, will probably have the pleasure of hearing them again from the fountain-head, and as for others, they may not be able to feel the beauty of it.

I proceed to give some general directions towards the attainment of this happy talent. And, in the first place, let me recommend swearing. I have indeed, in some measure anticipated this, and therefore shall only mention one advantage of it, which has not, as I know of, been insisted on before. The benevolent origin and design of swearing. Some person or other, perhaps in the feudal times, lamenting the great distance there was between different ranks of men, and animated with true philanthropy, endeavoured, if possible, to introduce a practice which would effectually level all the pride of distinction,—place the learned and the unlearned, the genius and the fool on the same bottom, and make the heir of a crown, and the sweeper of a chimney able to appear equally witty, and equally wise.

2dly, If you would make others laugh, laugh yourself. This is agreeable (*mutatis mutandis*) to the direct rule of Horace, who tells us in so many words. “*Si bis me flere, dolendum est primum ipsi tibi.*” If you laugh, you will, as Shakespear himself informs us, set on a quantity of spectators to laugh too. But we have no need to rely upon authority for this. Upon reflection the plan will approve itself to your severest judgement; for consider, your wit will either be successful or not; if it be successful, having begun with a laugh, you will be doubly blessed, and if not successful, you will at least be upon a level with your luckiest neighbours; they have gained the fruit of their labours at last: you got paid before hand.

3dly, Always make long prefaces. O! how many most excellent wits for want of this have I seen, as Gray pathetically describes,

———“Born to blush unseen,
“And waste their sweetness in the desert air!”

besides it is the rudest thing in nature, it proves you unaccustomed to good company, and is a direct affront to those you converse with, supposing them destitute of

that perpetual absence of mind, which is the height of gentility. Always, therefore, begin with some such expression as this, "I am now going to tell the very best witticism you ever heard." "This will raise curiosity, it will excite admiration.

4thly, If you would be a real wit, endeavour to get rich as soon as you can. To superficial minds, this may seem an odd direction. The wise and experienced, however, know that a witty saying from a man worth ten thousand pounds will always have a much finer effect (*ceteris paribus*) than another from a man worth only five; and so in proportion for any larger sum.

Once more let me advise you to repeat your favourite stories over and over. This will give you a wonderful facility of expression, and happy command of gesture; you will learn where to pause, when to look grave, and the critical moments when you must boldly lead on the laugh. What think you would become of all the wit of the play-house, were not all the niceties of stage-effect studied before hand at home? There is indeed danger here, lest he who laughed with you yesterday should be your hearer again to day. This is awkward, and may spoil your reputation. There are two approved methods of getting over this, one by a sly nod to your friend to bribe him into silence, and the other by making your story into a good old story, I generally prefer the former.

THALIA.

On Gothic Architecture, considered as an Object of Taste,

(Continued from p. 260.)

By a mode of reasoning, similar to that pursued in our former number, we might be also led to conclude, that the inside of a Gothic cathedral is constructed upon principles of true taste; for, I believe no person who was ever made

to enter one of these structures, did not feel his mind affected with a strong sensation of dignity and grandeur, communicated by the view of the surrounding objects. Nothing is indeed more common than to hear those very persons, who, from the prejudices they have imbibed in favour of Grecian architecture, are perpetually busied in criticising and condemning as barbarous and incongruous every particular respecting Gothic structures, acknowledging, at the same time, that these structures never fail to produce this striking effect on the mind of every beholder. But if even the force of habit and prejudice cannot overcome the power of this superior charm, we shall, I think, be forced to acknowledge that those artists who have been able to discover the means by which this effect might be produced, have not been entirely ignorant of the fundamental principles of the beautiful, and the sublime.

Persons who are entirely unprejudiced in regard to objects of this nature, and who have never perhaps heard of Grecian or of Gothic architecture, or who know not in what respects they differ from each other, in general go farther than the others. They, for the most part, are ready to allow that their minds are, on these occasions impressed, not only with a sensation of grandeur and dignity, but with a chearful elevation also, that produces an inexplicable serenity and pleasure, extremely different from that sombre gloom, with which they are affected on entering under the massive vaulted roofs of the few superb churches in this isle, which are built in the most splendid and expensive manner, according to the Grecian stile of architecture. If these facts are so, we should naturally be led to conclude, that though the Grecian structures, when built upon the truest model, are indeed calculated to please, when viewed *from without*, yet that, in regard to the elegance of *internal* composition, they are found to be far inferior to the best models that remain of Gothic architecture.

In a matter of this consequence, however, I would not be understood to speak decisively, or rashly to draw any conclusion. The utmost that ought to be attempted, should be to refer this point to the determination of experiment, and to abide by that decision for the present, if any decision can be made, whatever that may be.

Supposing then the matter to be still undecided, and that an unprejudiced spectator was to be introduced, first into a Gothic cathedral in its best stile, and then into St. Paul's, London, which is the most superb structure of this kind in Britain, according to the Grecian mode, and try if we could perceive what would be the objects that would most strongly attract his notice, and the effects they would naturally excite in his mind.

In the first place, the delicate round columns of the Gothic pile would catch the eye, and by exhibiting a pleasing figure, would naturally lead it from the base along the shaft to its top, where the small ribs divaricating in an easy manner, without unnatural breaks or chasms of any kind, invite the eyes, imperceptibly to steal along the whole of the widely spreading roof, every part of which being light and chearful, excites a sort of exhilarating sensation *. In the mean while, the regular rows of pillars, on each side, decreasing in width, and deminishing in heighth as their distance in-

* Architects have taken pleasure to describe the circumstances that excited ideas to the Grecian architect, and to point out the objects that served for the models of the various particulars of that stile of architecture. The bole of a tree served as a model for the shaft of the column. A stone placed below it, to prevent its sinking into the ground, was the origin of the *plinths*. A bandage at top and bottom, to prevent it from splitting, gave rise to the base and the capital. A beam at top, to keep the whole firm and steady, formed the architrave. Scantlings, mortoised into that beam to support the roof, suggested the idea of the Doric triglyph; and every person has heard of the basket with the acanthus leaves growing round it, which suggested the hint to the artist for the Corinthian capital.

creases, and the distinct portions of the roof regularly springing from each column, and diminishing as they recede from the eye by a natural perspective, mark the distance there in a more regular and pleasing manner, and with less effort of the beholder than ever yet has been effected by any other mode. The mind is thus led to form, without difficulty or confusion, a distinct idea of the vast dimensions, and great regularity of the whole. When the eye glances too, on each side, the columns are so open as not to hinder its progress. The near windows on the sides are distinctly seen, the pillars that separate these windows, with their divaricating arches supporting the roof receding in regular perspective, till they are at last gradually lost behind the prominent parts, leaves the mind at freedom to pursue their course in idea, long after these parts are hid from the eye. The figures too of men and other animals that are seen in any part, being always fully illuminated, are shown to great advantage, and serve as a natural scale for measuring the size of every part.

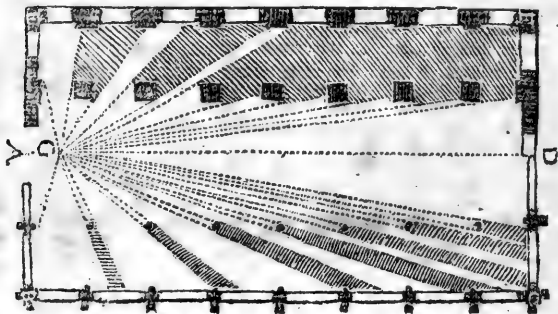
No one, however, seems to have examined the Gothic architecture, or taken the trouble to spend a thought about the origin of that stile of construction peculiar to it; and therefore we have not heard any thing of the objects that served for a model to the artist, though it seems to me much more obvious than these hints respecting the Grecian stile. A growing tree, with all its branches spreading wide, intermingling with those of others around, and forming above a close covering by its thick foliage, has been obviously the archetype of the beautiful objects we at present contemplate. The column represents the bole, and the ribs, diverging on every side, represent the branches. The rounded ribs that frequently are seen to mark the stem of the tree, a great way below the place where the branch leaves it, has even given rise obviously to the idea of those ribs, or rods, as they have been called, of the Gothic column. The resemblance is so exact as cannot fail to strike every one as soon as it is pointed out. Indeed no object purely artificial, I ever saw, is so exact an imitation of a natural one, (if the reader will pardon the small inaccuracy of calling trees planted in rows natural objects,) than the general appearance of the view along the aisle of a large cathedral, terminated by its window, and a vista open at the end, formed by parallel straight rows of trees; as every person who has been much in the country must have remarked.

Amidst such an assemblage of great and striking objects, it is scarcely possible to suppose that any human mind should be so torpid as not to be roused into ardour, if not exalted into enthusiasm.

On the other hand, on entering into St. Paul's by the west door, the massy *square* pillars, on either side, first present themselves, and so totally exclude the view, that these pillars appear to be the walls and boundaries of the church †. The solid vault above, unbroken

Explanation.

† To illustrate the reasoning in the text, let us suppose the plate below represents the plan of the inside of a cathedral, divided by a line in the middle, AD, one half of which is laid out in the way that cathedrals built in the Grecian stile usually are, with thick walls, and massy square pillars, resembling those of St. Paul's. The other half is divided according to the Gothic stile, with round columns, thin walls, and buttresses. In order to illustrate, in some measure, the different appearance each of these present to the eye, a person is supposed to be placed near the door, at G. on looking around, without leaving his place, he will see all those parts of the structure that are left quite white; but those which are concealed from his eye by the pillars and columns are slightly shaded. From this view, therefore, it appears, that were the proportions exactly as here delineated he would get a sight on the Gothic side, of no less than ten side windows more or less distinctly, (one of them twice seen) which are the whole of the windows in this plan; But on the Grecian side he would get only a full view of one window, and a slight peep of other two. He would likewise see, more or less distinctly, no less than eight of the outer row of columns on the Gothic side, with a full view of



by any line that can mark its receding distance, and thrown into a deep shade by the side pillars, the deep architrave, and projecting cornice that runs uniformly along the whole, gives an idea of a long and sombre vault, a fit receptacle for the tombs of our deceased ancestors. The massy square pillars too, when at a very small distance from the eye, have their parts so indistinctly marked, as to appear merely one solid wall, forming a long and narrow tube rather than a vista, terminated by a distant window; the only striking object in the whole. To this window, the eye is instinctively carried, without marking the intermediate objects, as it is to the aperture of the object-glass of a telescope. Thus it happens, that though the church be, in reality, very large, and the separate parts of it magnificent; yet as these parts are so entirely detached from each other, as not to be seen in a connected view in any one place the effect is lost, and it is only after

the divaricating ribs of all their arches above, but on the Grecian side he could see only three windows, and one of these very slightly indeed. The one structure, therefore, from this point of view, must appear greatly larger, more distinct and lighter (by which term is here meant less heavy or clumsy, not better illuminated) than the other.

As to lightness, properly so called, in opposition to darkness, or the degree of illumination that each of these admits of, the difference in favour of the Gothic structure is much greater than in regard to the particular here explained. This might be illustrated in the same manner, by drawing lines from the edges of the windows to the columns and pillars on either side, and representing the shades produced in either sides by lines of different tints; but this, to be properly done would require several plates, and would after all appear so complicated, as to be intelligible, only to a few. Men acquainted with speculations of this sort, can easily satisfy themselves in this manner, by an actual diagram of every particular respecting this circumstance, but one, which is, the making allowance for the windows in the middle nef of the Gothic building, which are totally excluded from the Grecian. When all these particulars are conjoined together, it will no longer appear surprising, that the one should appear so spacious, light, exhilarating, and cheerful in comparison of the other, though the real dimensions should be the same in both; and the quantity of materials consumed on the Grecian plan, and the expence of building it, be inconceivably greater than on the Gothic.

N. B. The engraver has, by mistake, made the columns too small.

the whole has been ranged over again and again, as if in a large building consisting of many apartments, that the mind can be enabled, with great labour, to form even then but an inadequate idea of the size and magnificence of the whole.

In the above description I have taken no notice of the dome; because this is an adventitious idea in architecture, entirely borrowed from the central lantern of the Gothic structure, not at all belonging to the Grecian stile. For though Michael Angelo, who built the model from which St Paul's was copied, conceived the first hint of the beauty of that rotundity of figure from the *Pantheon* at Rome, yet it is plain to the most superficial observer, that the idea of placing it in the centre, and of supporting it upon open pillars, and of illuminating it by windows on every side, above the level of the roof of the other parts of the building, were all borrowed from the lantern towers in the middle of Gothic cathedrals, which were introduced into universal practice long before *Buonuoretti* was born. If, therefore, this part of the structure deserves praise, it ought to be referred to the Gothic, rather than the Grecian stile of architecture;—and it will, I believe, be admitted, that though the dome be the only object in this cathedral which produces a great and striking effect, it has that effect much diminished, by its being preposterously allied with the ponderous masses, abrupt angles, and heavy projections of the Grecian ornaments with which it is here conjoined, in comparison of what it would have had if reared in the lighter manner, so characteristic of the Gothic stile.

It ought not, however, here to escape notice, that though the advocates for the Grecian stile of architecture insist chiefly on the fewness and simplicity of its parts, as its most characteristic feature of elegance and beauty, when compared with the Gothic, which is, say they, so much broken and confused as to give no

distinct idea of a whole, and have been so blind as to repeat the same observation times innumerable, after the dome of St. Paul's has been erected under our own eye; though, when compared with the plain simplicity of the inside of any great central tower of our Gothic cathedrals, it plainly appears to be only a mass of confusion, arising from the complication of pillars, architraves, arches, cornices, pilasters, and other various parts, piled above each other, without any connection, that affords the most striking contrast in favour of the simplicity and fewness of parts of the Gothic, when compared with the Grecian stile of architecture in this respect. Let us not, however, blame the Greeks, the inventors of this kind of architecture, for these absurdities.—*They* are perfectly innocent of the crime.—*Their* object was to adorn the *external* part of their temples, and they contrived devices by which that could be done with good effect; but their imitators in after times, blinded by an overweening prejudice in favour of these artists, permitted not themselves to consider and weigh the merits of their invention, and calmly to discriminate what were the purposes it was alone calculated to answer; but with a bigotted veneration idolized the invention, and deemed it capable of answering *every* purpose more completely than any other device that could be contrived. Ridiculous ornaments, therefore, in imitation of the grand and stately column, have been carved on massive pillars, to serve as abutments for arches;—nor could the architrave, which, as originally applied, was a most essential and necessary part of the structure, be here dispensed with;—mimic columns, standing on columns, arches within arches, and cornices encircling one another, have been introduced in the *inside* of our buildings, where they serve no other purpose than to perplex the eye, and to mark the poverty of ideas of the servile imitator who thus misapplied them. Ranges of *columns*, or the mean imitations of these, *pilasters*, have been piled above each

other till they reached the skies, and till, by the smallness of their size, and poorness of their relief, they have even almost eluded the eye entirely. Thus has the column, which was originally grand, from its massive dimensions, and sublime from the simplicity of its parts, been degraded into a puerile and ninny ornament.—These have often been huddled together into clusters that exhibit not the slightest mark of that dignity which formed their only characteristic feature at their birth. The inside of St. Paul's dome affords a most striking proof of the painful efforts that have been required to pervert these ornaments from their original use, and to group them together into an incongruous mass for serving purposes that they never were capable of answering. St. Stephen's, Walbrook, that structure which has been so highly praised, affords another specimen of an abortive attempt at mimicking the lightness of Gothic architecture, while the Grecian stile of ornaments were to be retained.—But this I shall have occasion to consider at some future period.

ON OMENS, ALBANICUS.

To the Editor of the Bee,

SIR,

I PRESUME it may not be un-entertaining to many of your contemplative readers to cast their eye upon the following very remarkable coincidences of political events, in respect of circumstances, times, and persons, from which, however, I am very far from pretending to draw any particular inferences with respect to the intention of Divine Providence, which in its final causes and government, must ever be inscrutable to the human understanding.

Among George Ballard's MSS. in the Bodleyan Library, Oxford, there is an original letter from Dr Geo.

Hickes to Dr Charlett, dated January 23, 1710-11, from which the following passage was transcribed :

"I can defer sending my humble thanks no longer for your kind new-year's gift, the stately almanack, and the *Orationes ex Poetis Latinis*; where, after looking upon the title-page, I happened to dip in p. 46. where I cast my eye on the *Sortes Virgilianæ* of Charles I.

At bello audacis populi vexatis, &c.

"This gave me some melancholy reflections for an hour or two, and made me call to my mind the omens that happened at the coronation of his son James II. which I saw, viz. the tottering of his crown upon his head, the broken canopy over it, and the rent flag hanging upon the White Tower over against my door, when I came home from the coronation. It was torn by the wind, at the same time the signal was given to the Tower that he was crowned. I put no great stress upon omens, but I cannot despise them. Most of them, I believe, come by chance, but some from superior intellectual agents, especially those which regard the fate of nations."

General Burgoyne, who was chairman of the committee of the House of Commons, when the plunderers and oppressors of the East were suffered to pass unpunished, was the first British general who was forced to behold a British army pile their arms to rebellious subjects.

Scotland was the great abettor of the unjust war with the American colonies, and on St. Andrew's day the Parliament of England passed the resolution to reduce America to obedience by force. On the same anniversary, did the whole power of Britain by its representative at Paris sign the preliminary articles, by which America was acknowledged to be a sovereign and independent nation, and the great Franklin signed the definitive treaty on the 23d of January, in the same dress he had been insulted in the House of Lords, that day being also the anniversary of the motion of

Lord Chatham to withdraw the fleets and armies from North America.

Earl Cornwallis was forced on a point of military honour to serve against America though he had protested against the principle of it in parliament.

If he drew his sword against his will, and against his conscience, he was sufficiently punished by being forced to surrender another British army, and to put the last hand to the dis-memberance of the British empire.

These are instances of what we call in Scotland, reading of sins in punishments. As to the operation of the elements in determining revolutions, as in the year 1688 when the prince of Orange's fleet landed without opposition on the coast of England, in sight of a much superior force; the dispersion of the Spanish Armada, and the like, I leave these to suitable reflection. I pretend not to make any of my own, but subscribe myself,

Sir, your humble servant

ALBANICUS.

AN APOLOGUE. CRESCIT OCCULTO.

To the Editor of the Bee.

[*Competition Piece.*]

An apologue may be defin'd,
 A simile suspended,
 That archly shews the author's mind,
 His aim a while extended.
 The similitude, if quaint and new,
 And quickly understood,
 And gains the end he has in view,
 The apologue is good.
 To justify my definition,
 Take Phædrus from the shelf,
 To supercede a disquisition,
 I give you one myself.

I POSSESS a field of considerable extent.—The soil is capable of improvement; and is cultivated with diligence, if not with success.—The fences are of different kinds, and are in pretty good repair.

I have divided my possession into various parcels;—and to each have allotted trees, shrubs, grains, plants, and flowers, corresponding to my ideas of dignity, utility, beauty, and effect. In the principal division are the trees of Life, and of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. I have reared the oak, the fir, the myrtle.—Many fruit-trees have I planted, and I promise myself much profit from my orchard. I am pleased particularly with the appearance of fruit from the crab, which thrives well.

Though my trees claim my chief care, I find much employment and amusement, and much advantage too, in my corns, my shrubbery, and my parterres. Here the vacant hour is agreeably bestowed;—here conversation is pleasant;—here imagination is indulged;—here devotion is assisted and cherished;—here beauty charms;—here music enchants;—here odours regale;—here nature smiles.—It is in this quarter, especially, that the bee may find it's dear and delightful objects; and from them extract it's wax and food for itself, and for the use of it's master.

Is not this the speech of Vanity, and of the disease of Authorship? The writer, forsooth, considers himself a man of sufficient prudence to defend and secure his powers and his knowledge. He is a theologian, and is chiefly versant in serious subjects. He aspires to sublimity;—he studies utility;—he wishes to impart pleasure. Intellectual and moral improvement and enjoyment are carefully promoted. The knotty staff and four fruit of satire he considers to be useful and necessary.

It is easy to see that his shrubbery, corns, and flowers, are dissertations, essays, verses; the effusions of wit and humour, of affection and friendship; and that he very modestly proposes to become a contributor to the Bee.

December 16, 1790.

Extract of a Letter from Mons. de Crosne to the celebrated Mons. Neckar.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

THE following is a faithful translation of an extract of a letter from Mons. de Crosne, Intendant of Rouen, to the celebrated Mons. Neckar, then director-general of the finances: the letter is dated 17th December 1777.

“ At nine o'clock, P. M. on the 31st of August last, a vessel from Rochelle, laden with salt, manned by eight hands, and having two passengers on board, was discovered making for the pier of Dieppe. The wind was at that time so high, and the sea so much agitated, that a coasting pilot made four fruitless attempts to get out and conduct it safe into port. One of the name of *Bouffard*, a bold and intrepid pilot, perceiving that the helmsman was ignorant of latent danger, endeavoured to direct him by a speaking trumpet and signals; but the captain could neither see nor hear by reason of the darkness of the night, the roaring of the winds, and the extraordinary swell of the sea. The vessel, meanwhile, grounded on a flinty bottom, at thirty toises from the advanced mole.

Bouffard, touched with the cries of the unfortunate crew, resolved to spring to their assistance, in spite of every remonstrance, and the apparent impossibility of success. Accordingly he caused remove his wife and children, who pressed him to stay on shore; tied one

end of a rope about his waste, fastened the other to the mole, and plunged headlong into the boisterous element. When he had got very near the ship, a wave carried him off, and dashed him on shore.—Twenty times successively was he thus repulsed, rolled upon flinty stones, and covered by the wreck of the vessel, which the fury of the waves tore rapidly to pieces. He did not, however, abate his ardour. A single wave dragged him under the ship. He was given up for lost, but he quickly emerged, holding in his arms a sailor, who had been washed overboard. He brought him on shore, motionless, and just expiring. In short, after an infinity of efforts and struggles, he reached the wreck, and threw his rope on-board. All who had force enough left to avail themselves of this assistance, tied it about them, and were dragged to land.

“Bouffard, who imagined he had now saved all the crew, weighed down by fatigue, and smarting from his wounds and bruises, walked with great difficulty to the light-house, where he fell down and fainted through weakness. Assistance being quickly procured, he discharged a load of salt water, and began to recover his senses. On hearing that groans still issued from the wreck, he once more collected the little strength that was left him, rushed from the arms of those who succoured him, plunged in again, and had the good fortune to save the life of one of the passengers, who was lashed to the wreck, and who, in his languid state, had been unable to profit of the assistance administered to his companions.—“Two souls perished out of ten, and their bodies were found on the following day.”

Monf. Necker addressed the following lines, in his own hand writing, to Bouffard, on the 22d December 1777:

Brave Man,

“I was not apprized by the intendant till the day before yesterday, of the gallant deed you atchieved on the 31st of August. Yesterday I reported it to his

majesty, who was pleased to enjoin me to communicate to you his satisfaction, and to acquaint you, that he presents you with 1000 livres by way of gratification, and an annual pension of 300 livres.—Continue to succour others when you may; and pray for your good king, who loves and recompenses the brave.”

The Whistle. A true Story, written by Dr Franklin to his Nephew.

WHEN I was a child, at seven years old, my friends, on a holiday, filled my little pockets with coppers. I went directly to a shop where they sold toys for children; and being charmed with the sound of a *whistle* that I met by the way, in the hands of another boy, I voluntarily offered him all my money for one. I then came home, and went whistling all over the house, much pleased with my *whistle*, and disturbing all the family. My brothers, and sisters, and cousins, understanding the bargain I had made, told me I had given four times as much for it as it was worth. This put me in mind what good things I might have bought with the rest of my money—and they laughed at me so much for my folly, that I cried with vexation; and the reflection gave me more chagrin than the *whistle* gave me pleasure.

This, however, was afterwards of use to me, the impression continuing on my mind; so that often when I was tempted to buy some unnecessary thing, I said to myself, *don't give too much for the whistle*: and so saved my money.

As I grew up, came into the world, and observed the actions of men, I thought I met with many, very many, *who gave too much for the whistle*.

When I saw any one too ambitious of court-favours—sacrificing his time in attendance at levees, his repose,

his liberty, his virtue, and perhaps his friends to attain it, I have said to myself, *This man gives too much for his whistle.*

When I saw another fond of popularity, constantly employing himself in political bustles, neglecting his own affairs, and ruining them by that neglect, *he pays indeed, says I, too much for his whistle.*

If I knew a miser, who gave up every kind of comfortable living—all the pleasure of doing good to others—all the esteem of his fellow citizens; and the joys of benevolent friendship, for the sake of accumulating wealth; *poor man, says I, you do indeed pay too much for your whistle.*

When I meet a man of pleasure, sacrificing every laudable improvement of the mind, or of his fortune, to mere corporeal sensations. *Mistaken man, says I, you are providing pain for yourself instead of pleasure.—You give too much for your whistle.*

If I see one fond of fine cloaths, fine furniture, fine equipages all above his fortune, for which he contracts debts, and ends his career in prison, *Alas, says I, he has paid dear, very dear for his whistle.*

When I see a beautiful sweet-tempered girl married to an ill-natured brute of a husband, *what a pity it is, says I, that she has paid so much for a whistle.*

In short, I conceived, that great part of the miseries of mankind were brought upon them by the false estimates they had made of the value of things, and by their paying too much for their *whistles.*

AM. MUS. 1790.

The Traveller.

DURING the summer of last year, occasion—no matter what—called an honest English squire to take a journey to Peterburgh,

Untravelled, and unknowing, he provided himself with no *passport*,—his business concerned himself alone, and what had foreign nations to do with him?

His route lay through the states of different powers;—he landed in Holland,—passed the usual examination; but insisting that the affairs which brought him there were of a private nature, he was questioned and detained a short time; but appearing to be incapable of design, he was at length permitted to pursue his journey.

To the officer of the guard who had detained him, he made frequent complaints of the loss he might sustain by the delay:—the officer, after a long pause, slowly drew the pipe from his mouth, and emitting the smoke;—"Mynheer," says he, "When you first set your foot on the land of the *Seven United Provinces*, you should have declared you came thither on affairs of commerce," and re-placing his pipe, relapsed into immoveable taciturnity.

Released from his unsocial companion, he the next day arrived at a French post, where the centinel of the advanced guard requested the honour of his permission to ask for his passport;—on his failing to produce any, he was entreated to pardon the liberty he took of conducting him to the commandant; but it was his duty, and he must, however reluctantly, perform it.

Monsieur le commandant, received him with pompous politeness; he made the usual enquiries, and our traveller, determined to avoid the error which had produced such inconvenience, replied, "that commercial concerns drew him to the continent."

"*Ma foi*," says the commandant, "*c'est un negociant, un bourgeois* ;—take him away to the guard-house, we will examine him to-morrow,—at present we must dress for the *Comedie* ; *Allons*." Our traveller swore it was uncivil, and unfriendly, and ungenerous;—five hundred Frenchmen might travel through Great Britain without a question; they never questioned any

stranger in Great Britain, nor stopped him—nor imprisoned him, nor guarded him.

“ Monsieur,” says the centinel, as he conducted him to the guard-room, “ You should not have mentioned commerce to *Monsieur le commandant*,—no gentleman in France disgraces himself with trade—we despise traffic.

“ You should have informed *Monsieur le commandant*, that you entered the dominions of the king of the French, to improve in *singing*, or in *dancing*, or in *dressing*; arms are the profession of a man of fashion.” He had the honour of passing the night with a French guard, and the next day was dismissed.

Proceeding on his journey, he fell in with a detachment of *German Chasseurs*,—they demanded his name, quality, and business;—he came, he said, to *dance*—to *sing*,—and to *dress*. “ He is a Frenchman,” said the corporal; “ a spy,” cries the serjeant;—he was directed to mount behind a dragoon, and carried to the next Municipal town.

There he was soon discharged, but not without a word of advice. “ We Germans,” said the officer, “ eat, drink, and smoke;—these are our favourite employments;—and had you informed the dragoons you followed no other business, you would have saved them and yourself infinite trouble.”

He soon approached the Prussian dominions, where his examination was still more strict;—and on answering, that his only designs were to eat, and to drink, and to smoke.—“ To eat! and to drink! and to smoke!” exclaimed the officer with astonishment, “ Sir, you must be forwarded to Potsdam—*war* is the only business of mankind.”

The king having learned the character of our traveller, ordered a passport to be made out for him, observing, “ It is an ignorant, an innocent Englishman:—the English are unacquainted with military duties, so let him pass on.”

Being arrived at the frontiers of Poland, he flattered himself his troubles were at an end; but he reckoned without his host. "Your business in Poland?" interrogated the officer, "I really don't know, Sir."—"Not know your own business, Sir," resumed the officer, "I must conduct you to the Starost."

"For the love of God," says the wearied traveller, "take pity on me; I have been imprisoned in Holland for being desirous of keeping my own affairs to myself."

"I have been confined all night in a French guard-house, for declaring myself a merchant."

"I have been compelled to ride seven miles behind a German dragoon, for professing myself a man of pleasure."

"I have been carried fifty miles a prisoner in Prussia, for owning my attachment to ease and good living."

"If you will have the goodness to let me know how I may render such an account of myself as not to give offence, I shall ever consider you as my friend and protector."

ST. J. JOURN.

Inigo Jones.

This great architect, though a pupil of Palladio's, appears occasionally, in point of grandeur, to exceed his model. The last Lord Burlington was so attached to him that he published a complete collection of his works; and was so impressed with the beauty of the portico that Inigo Jones had added to the old Gothic fabric of St. Paul's, that on seeing the completion of the present church by Sir Christopher Wren he cried out, "When the Jews saw the second temple they reflected on the beauty of the first, and could not refrain from tears."

The Times.

HAIL happy times, when peace succeeds each broil,
And flowing plenty crowns the lab'rer's toil :
When church and state unite in social bands,
And growing commerce joins the distant lands :
When rising genius feels no deep despair,
And budding virtue's nurs'd with tender care :
When dire revenge no more our rights assail,
Emmantl'd o'er with seeming pious zeal ;
Th' untainted muse oft courts the glades and streams,
And spreads her stores before enlivening beams :
Sometimes exploring the historic page,
Reviews the adverse scenes of former age.
When truth and genius sink in servile fear,
And noblest virtues form'd no safe barrier :
Ev'n thou, for whose unblemish'd honours rise
The column high, thy fame t' immortalize.
Deep felt th' effects of an ungrateful age ;
The sting of envy, tipt with papal rage.
Let grasping av'rice strain with all her might,
And gnawing envy grudge another's right.
Tho' vice, with all her smiling train combin'd,
Unfurl her blazing streamers to the wind,
Firm virtue's pow'rs the noblest trophies bring,
And wear the garland of immortal Spring.
When envious JOHNSON tow'rd the Scotian round,
With narrow soul in frozen fetters bound,
Nor grove, nor tree, nor fertile flow'ry vale,
Could please his optics, or his mind regale.
A barren desert, which no verdure yields,
Unstocked pastures, and uncultur'd fields :
Bent to detract, maliciously describes
A barb'rous language, and ungenerous tribes ;
A coward race, by nature's law consign'd
To stand uncypher'd, and to science blind.
Shrunk from himself, he dropt his vir'lent quill,
And own'd thy merit—fore against his will.

Hence, when Britannia's swains thy works peruse,
 Historic, tragic, or thy sacred muse,
 Each kindred soul, form'd for celestial love,
 Shall tread thy paths, and his own mind improve.
 If thousand harvests more with plenty smile,
 And bright'ning stars arise in Britain's isle,
 They'll own thy greatness, and revere thy name,
 And still exult in thy immortal fame.

F———T.

The first Ode of Anacreon, from the Greek. By
J. Tyson, LL. D.

WILLINGLY I'd sing *Atreidas*,
 Willingly great *Cadmus* praise,
 But my lyre its fav'rite numbers
 To gay Love alone would raise.
 Such fantastic notes disdaining,
 Quick I check'd each warbling wire,
 And to sing the great *Alcides*,
 Struck again the sounding lyre.
 But conceive my indignation,
 When instead of "*War's Alarms*,"
 Every note again rebellious,
 Sounded sweetly "*Beauty's Charms*."
 Farewell, then, ye deathless heroes,
 I no more your song will raise;
 Now my lyre, in notes of transport,
Cupid, shall resound thy praise!

Thornhill, August 24. 1791.

Ode to Fancy.

IN my poor little humble cot,
 As I sat musing—God knows what—
 To Belles and Beaux I bid adieu;
 My time is past! 'Tis now for you,

In mystic dance, your swains to hand
 The opening scene to Hymen's band :
 Sweetly smiling, ever gay,
 Like the fragrant flowers in May ;
 Or on the verdant-turf to rove,
 And fascinate poor hearts with love.
 Tell me, ye Gods, why thus you tease
 Deluded youths, who wish to please ?
 As fair as Eve, as Cloe kind :
 If such a one, I still could find,
 How happy time would glide away,
 And every month would be a May.
 The cot thus blest in humble state,
 I'd envy not the rich or great.

ALEXIS.

Hibernia.

In ages past, when war and fierceness join'd
 To blunt the native feelings of the mind ;
 Hibernia's rugged sons, in martial strife,
 With savage fury spent the stream of life.
 Long, very long, the drooping mother sigh'd,—
 And frowning, on her breast, in liberty they died !
 But meliorating time——
 Sent forth sensations more sublime ;
 Taught them to drop the tender tear,
 And banish from their grasp the murd'rous spear !
 Combining commerce spread her social sail—
 Improvement gently flow'd from every gale—
 To lawless rapine now no more they range.—
 The happy parent feels the polish'd change,
 Which oft thy arts, O peace ! conspire to give.—
 And, smiling, now in liberty they live.

M. G.

Intelligence respecting Arts.

On the Culture of the Silk-Worm in India.

I have had frequent occasion to mention Dr James Anderson of Madras, as an assiduous promoter of useful undertakings. He still goes forward in his praise-worthy career. The great object of all his pursuits is to discover means of furnishing constant employment to the lower classes of people in India, with a view to relieve themselves from those distresses to which they are too often exposed, while they shall at the same time benefit the state. By his care, the cochineal insect, if not already established there, will soon be planted in those regions, where there is every reason to hope it will prosper abundantly. But his views are not confined to one object: he knows that variety of employments alone can furnish proper business for a great people. In the following letter he points out the propriety of their cultivating the Silk-Worm, and the probability of its succeeding; during the winter months especially, there can be no doubt but that insect may be reared there with great success.

To the Honourable Sir CHARLES OAKELEY, Bart. Senior Member, and Council.

“ Honourable Sir,

“ A Necessary attention to the duties of my station, in the military department, has hitherto prevented my acknowledgment of your favour, inclosing the extract of a general letter from the Honourable Court of Directors, dated May 19. 1790; and although a state of war is ever precarious, yet the superior discipline of our troops, and the skill of their commanders in maintaining war in the enemy's territory, will, I trust, excuse my writing occasionally on the arts of peace that may be promoted in this country.

“ I am pleased with the approval of the Honourable Court, because they will see from my report of September 14. 1790, the readiness in which their Nopalry stands to receive the best kind of cochineal insects from America, where alone they can be found; I, therefore, hope that no time will be lost in sending them here.

“ Some mulberry trees, introduced about twenty years ago, grew so luxuriantly, that I was at pains to commission the eggs of the silk-worm from Bengal at several different times,

as the first embarkation could not be hatched; the second hatched on the passage; but the third, which came in one of the store-ships in December last, has succeeded, and not one of the worms have died of disease in this climate, or till such time as all their evolutions were accomplished.

“ When I tell you that the Lady Governess has directed a plantation of mulberry trees at the Female Asylum, and that several of my friends are now employed in the care of silk worms on different parts of the coast; you will, I am sure, think with me, that so favourable an opportunity of establishing a manufacture of public utility should be exposed to as little risk as possible; especially when I likewise assure you, that I have constructed the Piedmontese reel, agreeable to the plan in the French Encyclopedie, which has cost the Company many thousands of pounds for defraying the expences of Italian artists sent to Bengal.

“ The most authentic accounts I have been able to procure, state the contracts for silk at Cossimbuzar to amount yearly to 60 lacks of rupees, which is not half the value of 22,000 bales, the former produce of that country; indeed I have understood that Tippoo Sultan has lately supplied the interior parts of the Peninsula with silk made at Seringapatam, yet the demand is ever considerable.

“ As my views have been uniformly directed to point out the means of earning a subsistence, at all times, to the meaner and lower classes of the people, of a nature adapted to their genius and disposition, it will only be necessary to represent to you the mode in which this may be effected.

“ I therefore recommend, that the Revenue Board be instructed to direct mulberry plantations at every village on the coast, which, if I am not much mistaken, may be done at little or no expence, by means of the collectors and natevars or natives who direct the cultivation.

“ The ground for mulberry plantations should be a light, friable soil, capable of being watered in the hot season, and at the same time so high as not to be flooded in the wet, such as the banks of all the rivulets on the coast.

“ As the insects can speedily be multiplied and distributed, whenever mulberry plantations are sufficiently established, I have caused as many to be planted in my own garden and at the Nopalry, as will supply abundance of cuttings for the

gardens of all the collectors, from whence they may be afterwards distributed amongst the villagers.

“ The island of Cossimbuzar, and the banks of the Burhanpooter, where alone silk is made in Bengal, is but a small spot, compared with the extent of the coast. In four months of cold season, neither does the mulberry put forth leaves, nor the eggs of the silk-worm hatch; whereas our cold season here is sufficiently warm for both, and the silk I have made is more brilliant than that of Bengal.

“ In Europe the worm undergoes but one evolution in the year; whereas mine are in the third generation since the 14th of December last.

“ Several gentlemen have brought silk-worms here since I have been in India, which, for want of plan, attention, or perseverance, have come to nought; and although the war at present is a great hindrance to the full adoption of any plan for this purpose, yet the ease with which it may be effected, and the certainty that mulberry cuttings planted before the monsoon will live, with little farther trouble, I am induced to hope, that ground will be laid out for plantations as soon as possible. I am, Sir, with all due respect, &c.

JAMES ANDERSON.”

*Fort St George, }
April 18. 1791.*

To Dr JAMES ANDERSON.

“ Sir,

“ I AM directed by Government to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th inst. and to acquaint you, that they have desired the Board of Revenue to give instructions to the collectors for appropriating ground for the purpose, and to afford every suitable encouragement to the cultivation of mulberry trees. The collectors are to be informed that you will supply them with cuttings; and Government recommends, that you afford them the benefit of your opinion and advice, upon application, in order to promote the objects which you have in view, by extending the mulberry plantations. I am, Sir, &c.

G. N. WHITE, Sec.”

*Fort St George, }
April 20. 1791.*

*** Dr Anderson, in a subsequent letter addressed to Richard Molesworth, Esq; informs him that he had made an improvement on the silk reel, described in the French *Encyclopedie*, in which the second axle stands diagonally to the frame, which exposes the threads to be broken as they pass over the hooks at nearly a right angle. To remedy this, he caused a mortoise to be made in the middle of the corner and goer, through which an inverted T may be moved up or down at pleasure. In this way the silk is brought over the hooks at an angle as obtuse as may be found necessary, and the motion of the wheels amended by placing them at right angles to each other, with the axle parallel to the frame.

For the Bee.

Beacon on the Bell-Rock.

S I R,

SINCE my first going to sea, which is twenty-six years, I have wished that some method might be thought of to put a beacon on that singularly dangerous rock called the Cape, or Bell-rock, which lies off St Andrew's Bay; and is about twelve miles from Fifeness, and nearly the same distance from the Red-head, and not far from the entry into the river Tay. The difficulty of fixing a beacon here is very great, as the sea fall out of thirty fathom water on the east side of this rock, would be so heavy as to beat down an ordinary beacon in a very short time; and this difficulty is encreased by the necessity of having bells at its top, to give the alarm to vessels which shall approach it in the dark, without which it would but ill answer the purpose.

I have long revolved this subject in my mind, before I could discover how these very great difficulties could be overcome, and am now more than happy in being able to assure you, and the public through your means, those especially who are interested in navigation, that I have at last overcome all obstacles, and have completed a model of a beacon for that purpose, on principles that I am satisfied will certainly effect the purpose intended, which I am ready to shew to any person who is a judge of

things of this nature, and which I am willing to undertake to erect as soon as I shall be assured that money shall be provided for paying the expence of it *when finished*.

The beacon is to be supported by fourteen standards and chains, so contrived that they shall never slacken, but remain at all times tight as at first; these to serve as supporters. It is to rise twenty-seven feet above the rock: four bells are to be placed about four feet above the top of the beacon on iron stauncheons: one of these bells will be rung by the smallest breeze of wind, from whatever direction it may blow, and in a strong gale they all four will ring at the same time. The flag-staff, which rings the bells, will be ten or twelve feet high, with a vane on the top. The whole height will thus be from forty to forty-three feet; and should a wave break over the whole, nothing will give way or break, as it will be all secured in every part in the firmest manner, by strong bindings of hammered iron.

The utility of this beacon exceeds any description I could give of it. It would daily prevent many evils that shipping sustain on account of this rock, not only by delaying their voyages, but by the loss of lives and wreck of vessels innumerable. In thick foggy weather, there is no means of judging of the distance from this rock by soundings, as the depth and bottom is nearly the same N. E. and S. E. of it for a great distance; so that ships from the sea, that have not made the land, nor had an observation, give this rock in general such a distance as often entangles them on the north or south coasts, and has been the cause of great disasters. I believe more lives and property have been lost in not attempting to take this firth on account of this rock, than have been lost on the rock itself; though many have there perished who have never more been heard of. The service of such a beacon to coasters will be still, if possible, greater than to foreigners, or vessels from foreign ports, as, by being able to see the beacon by day, or to hear the bells by night, or in thick weather, they could cross St Andrew's bay directly at all times, with little danger compared to what they do at present.

To pay the expence of this very useful undertaking, I would propose that a general subscription be opened; no money to be demanded till the plan shall have been submitted to the inspection of persons of skill, and approved of by them. The money, when paid, to be put into the hands of trustees, by

whom it may be issued to pay the expences, as they shall fall due. And as to my own trouble and time, should the funds fall short, I would gladly contribute as much as I can to forward it; and should they prove abundant, I would willingly accept what should be deemed a reasonable compensation. The overplus, if any, to be applied to erect other beacons, or land-marks, upon the coast, as far as it could go.

Let the amount of the subscription be just what every subscriber thought he could easily spare, and no more—Half a guinea from any person in easy circumstances, who is concerned in mercantile or naval affairs, would be little missed, and would do more than effect the purpose wanted. To underwriters in particular, the benefits to be derived from this beacon would be great, and their profits, in many cases, considerably augmented; so that it can scarcely be doubted, but they will contribute liberally towards it; and when those of a humane disposition, who have no concern in business themselves, reflect on the anxious hours and sleepless nights which the fear of this rock occasions to poor mariners, who are perhaps at a great distance from it, and on the many lives that are lost by others running upon it, 'ere they are aware of the danger, few arguments will be necessary to induce them to bestow a small pittance of what they can easily spare, for helping to preserve them from a distress that must be unavoidable until this work shall be completed.

As I observe you are always ready to promote any plan that promises to be useful to your country, I doubt not, but you will, without hesitation, give this a place in your Bee, and do what you can to forward so beneficial an undertaking. I shall in a short time lodge subscription papers for this purpose in the principal bookellers shops; and in the mean time shall request the favour of you to mark down the names of such persons, with the sums they respectively subscribe, as shall be pleased to transmit them to yourself; and add, if you please, that I shall be ready to show the model to all who incline, and will be glad to be favoured with the opinion and sentiments of all who are friendly to the intended work. In doing this, you will oblige, Sir, your humble servant,

JOSEPH BRODIE.

Leith, 17th October 1791.

Observations on the foregoing by the Editor.

THE utility of an undertaking of the kind above-mentioned, is too obvious to need farther illustration. All that is wanted is, that persons who are judges should inspect the model, and give a public report, which I have no doubt they will soon do. Being myself fully persuaded of the utility of the plan, and the candour as well as abilities of Mr Brodie, I beg leave to testify my approbation of it, by contributing my mite of half a guinea, which shall be paid when demanded, agreeable to the proposals.

I beg leave just to suggest one thing, which ought to be adverted to at present, lest perhaps it might come too late if delayed till another occasion. As the trouble of erecting the beacon will be very considerable, it is of great consequence that the materials of which it is made should be of the most lasting kind that can be found. Both oak and fir, in the situation here proposed, very soon decay. Larix seems to be the only wood that grows in our northern hemisphere, that is capable of resisting the weather for a length of time in this exposed situation, and consequently that is the wood which should be provided for this purpose. It may be had in logs of any size wanted by commissioning it from Dantzick; and no time should be lost to order it on *this occasion*.

The following fact, which I had from a gentleman of veracity, clearly shows the superiority of larix to oak in this situation. The owners of decoys in Lincolnshire, finding it necessary to stretch nets over the water by means of stakes fixed in the shallow sea, are put to a great expence for wood for the stakes; one of these was advised some years ago to try larix wood for this purpose. He accordingly put alternate stakes of larix and oak. My informant assured me, that at the time he mentioned it, two sets of oak piles had been wasted, and the larix remained firm. How much longer it may remain, it is impossible to say.

One hint more:—The power of coal tar to preserve wood from corruption, is now established upon the most undeniable evidence. Care ought therefore to be taken to have the wood as fully impregnated with this as possible, by stewing it, if it can be done, in hot coal tar before it be erected. All parts of the iron work should likewise be dipt in coal tar while hot, as this gives it a power of resisting the weather, and thereby keeping free from rust, much more powerfully than any other preparation that has ever yet been discovered.

Proceedings in Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Westminster Election, continued from page 264.

Friday, 4th February 1791.

THE accustomed ceremonies being concluded within and without doors, the following names were returned as a committee to try the merits of the Westminster Election, &c.

Thomas Powys, Esq; *Chairman*.

Sir John Ingilby,	Hon. John Eliot
Mark Pringle, Esq;	Lord Carysfort,
John Pitt, Esq;	Hugh Barlow, Esq;
Marquis of Worcester,	William Grieve, Esq;
General Bruce,	Lord Bayham,
William Pochin, Esq;	Thomas Thompson, Esq;

Nominees—Matthew Montague and Lord Sheffield.

Mr Horne Tooke having waved his right of striking out names, the same was done by the clerk.

Saturday, February 5.

The committee being assembled, Mr Horne Tooke was called in to open the grounds of his petition. Mr Powys the Chairman desired Mr Tooke to open his case.

Mr Horne Tooke said, that he was himself personally much interested in the questions that were likely to come before the committee, and he was still more so, on account of the 1700 electors of *Westminster* who had voted for him. He observed that his petition came before the committee attended by unusual prejudices; he complained of the manner in which his petition had been treated in the House. He said, the Speaker was no doubt acquainted with certain laws, rules, and orders of that House, relative to elections; he thought he should have made himself perfectly master of every law, rule, or order, that had ever been made for regulating contested elections. From the fate of his petition, however, it would seem he had not done this: he was afraid the act which provided him with a salary of *six thousand pounds a-year*, last Session of Parliament, had engrossed so much of his attention, that he had totally forgotten all that went before.

On this observation the committee room was cleared, and about half an hour afterwards Mr Horne Tooke was called in.

Mr Powys the chairman said, "Mr Horne Tooke, I am directed by the committee to inform you, that the subject on which you have entered, is irrelevant to the matter which the

committee is sworn to hear and determine. This, Sir, is the resolution of the committee, and I think it necessary to add, that it is expected you will, as soon as possible, state your complaint upon the undue return of the sitting members for *Westminster*."

Mr Horne Tooke regretted that the committee had come to the resolution he had just heard expressed. He understood, that by this, he, the petitioner, should not be at liberty to state what was said or done by the House upon his petition, what was said out of doors upon his petition, or what the committee might report upon his petition. If he had only to settle a mere matter of election, or to argue against a *report*, which prejudice might occasion the committee to make, and which other committees had made upon petitions, that of being vexatious and frivolous, he would be very indifferent; but there was something much more interesting to the public. As to a reform in Parliament, his sentiments were well known; but he would say, that the gentlemen who had observed in the House, that he wished to propose a reform in the representation of the people, was one who had lately purchased four boroughs. "I do not," said Mr Tooke, mention Mr Pulteney's, or any other name."

Here Mr Poys informed Mr Tooke, that the committee would not suffer him to proceed if he mentioned anything spoken by any member of Parliament.

Mr Tooke said, if he was wrong in any thing, he said, he was sorry for it. It was not only his wish, but his duty to expedite a decision of the committee: whether they thought themselves at liberty to make a special *report*, and say that his petition was not only vexatious and frivolous, but scandalous and libellous? He had strong reasons for pressing this question, which he urged vehemently. He stood before the committee in a very distressing condition, when he considered the manner in which his petition had been sent to them. "The petition was sent with direction to censure it, not only as vexatious and frivolous, but scandalous and libellous." The words were ordered to be taken down; and being read, Mr Tooke said, they were the words he used, and desired that the following words, which he likewise spoke as the explanation of the preceding, might be likewise taken down. "The minister of the country, bred to the bar, in his place, while my petition was discussing, said that he saw no reason why the committee should not report the petition to the House, not only as frivolous and vexatious, but also as scandalous and libellous."

The Court was cleared, and when the parties were called in again, the Chairman informed Mr Tooke that the committee had resolved, and directed him to say, "That the words taken down are improper, and ought not to have been used, in as much as they are the substance of a debate in Parliament, which

it is not the business of this committee to take into consideration : and that the committee cannot listen to any animadversion on the conduct of any member, or on the proceedings of the House." And that the committee had likewise resolved, "That the chairman do direct Mr Horne Tooke to go to the matter of his petition, and state the circumstances of the undue election, and return of the sitting members, which is the cause they are to determine upon."

Mr Tooke then entered upon a variety of extraneous matter, and after a wide and digressory excursion, he told the committee that it was his wish to go back to the elections of Westminster in 1780, 1784, and 1788, to bring before them the riots, the bribery, and the abominable corruption that then prevailed, and if possible to point out the remedy. He said his petition contained many allegations, all of which he was certain he could prove. The question he much pressed upon the committee was, "To what extent they would allow him to carry his proof, because he would regulate the calling of his witnesses by their decision." He spoke till half past three, when the chairman informed him, that the committee considered he had now concluded his opening, and, in obedience to the directions of the committee, expressed in their resolutions, which the clerk had read, Mr Tooke must next proceed to state the circumstances of the undue election and return of the present sitting members for Westminster.

Adjourned to Monday, at ten o'clock.

Monday, February 7.

Pursuant to adjournment, the committee being met at ten o'clock, Mr Horne Tooke was ordered to proceed. He said, he meant, if he had leave, to call evidence on all the different allegations in his petition. He then recurred to the pretended perjury, riots, and murder that had been committed at former elections for Westminster, and said, he meant to bring proof of all that he advanced ; but being told by the Chairman, that no evidence would be admitted, except what was immediately connected with, and relative to, the matter under consideration, and that the committee desired he would proceed to the next point in evidence that he meant to bring forward, he said, that, if he was refused, when he begged leave to prove the murders, &c. that he had mentioned, it was in vain for him to proceed, or to give the Committee any further trouble, as, by refusing that evidence, he was convinced that he had brought his own complaint, and the grievances of the electors of Westminster, before an improper judicature, and must now think of some other method for obtaining justice and redress. Mr Powys, the Chairman, then asked Mr Tooke, if he had closed his case, or had any thing more to say in support of his petition, before the committee proceeded to take into consideration

what report they were to make to the House of Commons. He answered, that he had nothing more to state.

Mr Partridge, as counsel for *Lord Hood*, and *Mr Douglas* as counsel for *Mr Fox*, then severally stated, that as there was no complaint against the returning officer for impropriety of conduct, nor any complaint against either of the candidates for impropriety of conduct, substantiated even by a shadow of evidence, they trusted that the committee would decide this petition to be vexatious in the extreme, as well as frivolous and oppressive.

Mr Horne Tooke said, amongst the strange incidents of his life, it would be not the least extraordinary, if, on account of his petition, he was declared to be an oppressor. He spoke a short time, and played a good deal upon the words frivolous and vexatious. He said he had no doubt the committee might call it, with some degree of justice, vexatious. It was vexatious to the House when presented, and it had, he saw, been vexatious to the committee who had sat upon it, and were no doubt vexed at sitting so long; but how it could be vexatious to the candidates, or to the electors of Westminster, it would puzzle most men's ingenuity to point out.

The room was cleared, and the Committee having deliberated about an hour, *Mr Horne Tooke* was called in, when *Mr Powys*, the chairman, read to him that the Committee had determined,

"That the Right Honourable Lord Hood was duly elected a citizen to represent the city of Westminster in Parliament.

"That the Right Honourable Charles James Fox was duly elected a citizen to represent the city of Westminster in Parliament.

That the petition presented by John Horne Tooke, Esq; is frivolous.

"That the petition presented by John Horne Tooke, Esq; is vexatious.

"That the opposition of Lord Hood to that petition is not frivolous.

"That the opposition of the Right Honourable Charles James Fox to that petition is not frivolous."

Tuesday, February 8.

Mr Powys, chairman of the committee, brought up the above report to the House of Commons.

Mr Burke said, the business of this petition carried in it something serious and alarming. The proceedings before the committee, were the subject of public notoriety. He thought it incumbent on the House to enter into the discussion of a matter that might be so dangerous in its consequences. He then animadverted with warmth on *Mr Tooke's* proceedings before the committee, contending, that though the committee

had in the usual form reported the petition to be frivolous and vexatious, yet it was not frivolous and vexatious *in the common way*, and concluded with moving, "That a special committee be appointed to take into consideration the proceedings of the committee, &c."

Mr Powys rose to defend the committee, and said they had done their duty in reporting as they had done. He added, that if the House wished to institute any farther proceeding with regard to what had passed, the regular way he conceived would be to call for a copy of the minutes of the committee, when he trusted it would be found that the committee had regularly discharged their duty.

Mr Burke rose to explain, and protested he meant no reflection upon the committee, the purity of whose conduct was beyond question: he only meant to recommend it to the House, for the sake of their dignity, to institute some further examination into a business of such an extraordinary nature.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, the difficulty in the present business was, what was the proper line of discussion which ought to be adopted. He thought it advisable, before the matter should be taken up, to allow some time to intervene for reflection and due deliberation.

Mr Burke added a few words expressive of his indignation at the insult offered to the House. He thought it his duty to make the complaint, and left it to their wisdom to provide a remedy.

Mr Fox differed from his right honourable friend entirely. The committee had fully discharged their duty in voting the petition frivolous and vexatious. The law had provided a sufficient check against such improprieties of conduct, by declaring that those whose petitions were declared frivolous and vexatious should pay all the costs. He thought it becoming the dignity of the House to take no farther notice of it.

Mr Burke rose once more, and made one of those pleasing sportive speeches for which he is so remarkable, that had little other object in view, than to provoke a good humoured laugh in the House.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer still thought that it would be proper to allow time for deliberation, and that the House might afterwards resume it or not as they saw cause.

Mr Martin began to complain of an attack on some members of Parliament in a newspaper, but was called to order by the Speaker.

Mr Courtenay said, the wisest way would be to treat the petitioner, his petition, and his conduct before the committee with silent contempt, in which case the matter would soon sink into oblivion.

The matter was put an end to by calling for the order of the day.

To foreigners who are little acquainted with the nature of the British Constitution, this business will appear remarkable under two points of view. The first is, the indifference with which the supreme council of the nation permitted themselves to be insulted by an individual in his private capacity; for although a few members spoke with some warmth, the great majority of the assembly considered these injurious reflections in much the same light with Timoleon, who, after having restored freedom to Corinth, on being reviled by a citizen in very abusive language, made answer, that he rejoiced to see the time when a private citizen of Athens might with impunity revile the highest person in the state; not that they approved of such conduct, but that they were conscious the laws had provided a sufficient punishment for it, without any irregular interference on their parts. Men are here too cool, unless when hurried on by a spirit of faction, ever to be led into a violent mode of conduct from sudden provocation.

The next circumstance that will excite astonishment, will be the conduct of *Mr Horne Tooke*. Some would suspect that he was insane, when he so assiduously tried to provoke the assembly by his singularly intemperate conduct. This astonishment will subside, however, when they are informed, that in England, one of the most effectual modes of obtaining popularity, with the emoluments that usually follow it, is to provoke punishment from persons in power. To obtain the name of a *persecuted person* is a great point gained, and by contriving to draw down punishment upon themselves, several persons have risen to wealth and fame. Mr Tooke, however, if this was his object, misjudged the matter very much; for like an unskilful politician, he contrived to unite both the parties of administration and opposition against himself; none therefore, but a small number of the populace, who had no other leader but Mr Tooke himself, were interested in his cause. Thus all the parties looked on with indifference, reason was allowed to resume her throne, and Mr Horne Tooke had the mortification to feel himself amerced in a heavy fine, without obtaining a single person to commiserate his case. To have talents to a certain degree, without judgment enough to direct how these talents may be applied with effect, is one of the greatest misfortunes that can fall to the lot of man.

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, November 9, 1791.

Biographical Sketches of the late Earl of Errol.

At nos victuris potius committere chartis,
Barbaricum Xerxes fastum juvat, atmaque diri
Cæsaris, et facta Emathii scelerata tyranni :
At bene promeritos de vita nominumque salute
Negligimus Lethes tetra sub nocte jacentes.

It is much to be regretted, that fame should more usually accompany the destructive than the beneficent dispositions of mankind. The name of the conqueror, whose steps are marked with desolation, shall be recorded in songs, and transmitted to the latest posterity, while the prince, whose whole life has been spent in promoting the happiness of those entrusted to his care, is not much regarded during his life, and he no sooner dies, than his memory begins to fail. The sighs and

tears of those who suffer by the change, are the only trophies raised to his memory. The persons who thus secretly bewail their loss, soon follow in their turn; and though the effects of his beneficence may continue to cherish those who survive; yet, like the genial influence of heaven, the hand from whence it proceeded, is too often unperceived, and those who actually reap the benefit of his tender foresight, in a short while forget that ever such a person existed.

Such, in a great measure, has been the fate of the man who is the subject of this memoir. Those acts of beneficence which excited gratitude when they were conferred, are now in a great measure forgotten; many persons who were benefitted by them, are dropt into the grave, and the time seems to be fast approaching when not a trait of that amiable character shall be remembered that once excited the admiration of all who had an opportunity of observing it, and called forth the gratitude of thousands who participated in the blessings it procured them. An attempt to rescue it from oblivion ought to be received with indulgence.

James, Earl of Errol, was not more conspicuous for the dignity of his rank *, than for the comeliness of his person, and the elegance of his manners. His stature greatly exceeded the common size, and the proportions of every member were such as would have

* As to rank, in his Lordship's person were united the honours of Livingston, Kilmarnock, and Errol. As hereditary high constable of Scotland, Lord Errol is, by birth, the first subject in Great Britain, after the blood royal, and as such, has a right to take place of every hereditary honour. The Lord Chancellor, and the Lord High Constable of England do indeed take precedence of him, but these are only temporary honours which no man can lay claim to *by birth*, so that *by birth*, Lord Errol ranks, without a doubt, as the first subject of Great Britain, next after the princes of the blood royal.

But fortune prevented him from enjoying all the advantages he ought naturally to have derived from these accumulations of honours, by wresting from him in his early youth a great portion of the paternal estates that ought to have devolved upon him. His father, Lord Kilmarnock, having been inadvertently drawn in to espouse the cause of the unfor-

formed a most perfect model to the statuary for a figure of these dimensions. Strength, dignity, elegance, and lightness were so happily blended together, that whatever action he performed, whether he walked, or danced, or rode, you would have said his person had been formed in the happiest mold for that particular purpose. The manly and open candour of his countenance conveyed an idea of all the masculine virtues, while the expression was so softened by a beneficent complacency, as to exhibit a charm that man had heretofore been accustomed only to find in female gentleness. No one ever saw Lord Errol but was struck with the extraordinary dignity, beauty, and elegance of his whole appearance : no one ever conversed with him who did not feel the favourable impressions these externals had excited, considerably augmented. He was admired by all who saw him, and beloved by all who knew him.

Yet, as if heaven had intended that nothing in this world should be capable of producing unmixed felicity, these rare accomplishments were even perhaps the principal cause of giving much pain to himself, and anxiety to his posterity. The fascination of his elegant manners made his company so delightful to all who were of his acquaintance, that, in the early part of life, he was scarce ever permitted to be one moment alone. And though, to those who knew him at a later

tenate family of Steuart, his life and estates were both forfeited in the year 1746 ; and tho' Lord Errol himself, who before that period bore a commission in the British army, did not allow his fidelity to be shaken, or his loyalty to the Brunswick line in the smallest degree abated ; yet he never had the good fortune to recover any part of these estates, and his family, since his death, have had the mortification to see themselves excluded from deriving any benefit from the liberal spirit of the nation, by the act which restored to the heirs of so many other noble families the estates that had been forfeited on the same account. This was occasioned by an unlucky arrangement of Government, which, without any blame on their part, threw these estates into a different class from the former. This, it will be allowed, is a singular instance of unmerited bad fortune, that ought not to be overlooked by Government.

period, it was evident, from his conversation, he had read and studied a good deal, yet it was not easy for them to conjecture how he could have found opportunities for attaining these acquirements. Hurried, as he was, from one entertainment to another, and solicited on every hand to grace the pleasurable parties of every friend, it was truly amazing that his head was not turned, his understanding perverted, or his heart corrupted by the adulation he received; yet so very bountiful had nature been to this singular man, that vanity seems never to have made an impression on his mind, nor vice to have corrupted his heart; and though reason was not permitted at all times to exert her sovereign sway over his *actions*, yet when she was allowed to resume her seat in *deliberation*, her vigour at no time seemed to be impaired. Of a disposition, warm, generous, and humane, *prudence* was at times dismissed as a frigid monitor; and it was not till towards the decline of life that he discovered how much he had erred by not sooner attending to *her* suggestions.

Lord Errol, while yet a very young man, married Miss Lockhart, daughter to a gentleman long noted as a man of eminence at the Scottish bar, who was afterwards raised to the bench by the title of Lord Covington. This lady, though possessed of good sense, great rectitude of heart, and beneficence of disposition, had the misfortune to inherit from nature a weakly constitution, which rendered it impossible for her to undergo the fatigue of accompanying his Lordship in the various excursions that he, as an officer, was obliged, or as an agreeable companion was induced to make. Being thus, too often deprived of a faithful monitor, which the temptations to which he was exposed, and his own pliability of disposition required, he was drawn, inadvertently, into expences that his fortune was not able to bear, which laid the foundation of a distress that proved the only alloy to his happiness in the latter part of his days.

Lady Errol, whose health had never been re-established, lived in a calm retirement, cultivating the friendship of those around her, and delighting in acts of pious charity. She died at Bath, where she had been ordered by her physicians, in the year 1761, much regretted by all her acquaintance. By this lady he had one only daughter, whose education was entrusted to the care of a maiden sister of Lady Errol, who entertained a warm attachment for her infant niece.

Lord Errol afterwards married Miss Carr, daughter of William Carr of Etal, Esq; in Northumberland, a lady of great beauty and personal attractions.

The greatest blessing that heaven can bestow upon a man of an upright disposition of mind, and a feeling heart, is a wife whose approbation will tend to cherish these dispositions, and whose conduct is calculated to keep alive those tender domestic anxieties that constitute the chief happiness of man. Such a blessing Lord Errol had the good fortune to receive on this occasion. Young, innocent, mild,—cheerful though sympathizing, and sensible without knowing the extent of her understanding, the manners of lady Errol were captivating; and her conversation afforded a never-failing source of enjoyment, which constituted the chief happiness of his Lordship through the remainder of his life. Having, before this time, left the army for ever, home now became the object of his tenderest regards. He never left it but with reluctance, and always returned to it with joy. In the bosom of his family, in the innocent prattle of fine children, he experienced a tender enjoyment, far different from the turbulent pleasures of his early years, the recollection of which, and its consequences, proved the only alloy to his happiness.

Lord Errol, now tired of courts, though not disgusted with mankind, finally retired to his family seat, Slains castle, in Aberdeenshire. Here, indulging this natural beneficence of disposition, and beloved by all around

him, he exerted himself in promoting the welfare of his tenants, and other dependants in the lower walks of life. He observed, with regret, that an envious spirit of litigation prevailed among them, which had been excited, and still was fomented by the influence of some pettyfogging lawyers in Aberdeen, with a view to profit by these little disputes, and he set himself to correct it. The honest and mild influence of Lord Errol's character effected what nothing else could perhaps have done. He paid so much attention to those disputes among them that were brought before himself as a justice of the peace, that the parties were much better satisfied with his decisions than any other. But this was only a partial cure. He wished it might be general.

Trifling disputes among country people, he readily perceived, ought naturally to be determined, in a summary manner, by the *justices of the peace*. On enquiry, he found that few or no causes of that sort were brought before the justices in Aberdeenshire. On farther enquiry, with a view to discover the cause of this phenomenon, he found that the *justices*, in that country, *as in many other parts of Scotland*, had been so negligent in the discharge of their duty as to suffer abuses to prevail that loudly called for redress. The justice of peace courts seemed to meet for no other purpose than to levy fines against transgressors of the revenue laws. The few justices who took an active hand in this business, were indeed nothing better than a set of humble tools, subservient to the will of revenue officers alone, who apparently influenced them in all their proceedings. These servile judges were not even ashamed to become the guests of the collector of excise, who treated them on these occasions, and assumed almost a sovereign and dictatorial sway over these his humble coadjutors. In consequence of this, the very name of *justice of peace* had become a term of reproach,

and the court was there detested as the scourge of the people.

Lord Errol could not behold, without indignation, such a flagrant perversion of an institution which was originally intended to guard the liberties of the people, and to afford them redress of grievances, at a small expence; nor could he, without shame, behold an order of which he himself was a member, degraded to such a vilifying state of debasement. He pointed out to the gentlemen of rank and fortune around him, with great energy of argument, the impropriety of accepting the office of a *justice of the peace*, if they were not determined to perform the duties of that office: he dwelt upon the disgrace that such a conduct brought upon themselves, by obliging them to participate in the obloquy that attended the order, from the improper conduct of those who did act in name of the whole. He insisted, that in order to free themselves from this odium, it became incumbent upon them all either to decline accepting the office, or regularly to attend the stated meetings of that court in person, to act each for himself. It was this conduct alone, he said, that could restore to that institution that degree of respectability which it ought to bear in the state. He could not but consider this dereliction of duty as a culpable indolence, and, therefore, if they would agree to co-operate with him, *he* would undertake, as one, to meet them always at the justice of peace courts, when not prevented by bad health, or unavoidable avocations.

These remonstrances had the desired effect. The noblemen and gentlemen of the first rank and character in that country, from that time, attended these courts with great punctuality, as long as his lordship lived; and he himself was never absent but from unavoidable necessity. Lord Errol was generally among the first that attended, and as he was at pains to make himself perfectly master of the business, he took care that the clerks had every thing in readiness when the

court met, so that no time was lost in idle preparations, and they were thus enabled to proceed on business at an early hour.

It will be difficult for any one who has not seen a case of this sort to form an idea of the beneficial change that was produced on the state of the country by these regulations. The first change that caught the attention of the people, and gave respectability to the court, had a reference to the collector of excise. This officer, from that period, was treated exactly in the same manner as any other suitor before the court. The cases he stated were attended to with due respect; the evidence he adduced in support of his charges were examined with the most scrupulous care; but unsupported allegations, from whatever quarter they proceeded, were totally disregarded. The suggestions of the collector, with regard to the decisions, had no weight; and any observations he at the beginning ventured to make, as tending to influence the judgment of the court, were received in such a manner as soon to convince him of the impropriety of venturing upon such freedoms. The fines, in case of accidental trespasses through ignorance, were moderated; and if it appeared that the people had been led on by the wilful connivance, or culpable neglect of the officers, with a view to augment their own profits, at the expence of the revenue†, such officers were openly and sharply reprimanded by the court. When the excise business was over the collector, like other suitors at the court, was ordered to withdraw; and, if he was afterwards invited

† It is well known that half the fines imposed by law upon those who are caught in attempts to cheat the revenue are given to the revenue officers. It therefore becomes the interest of the revenue officers that these attempts to evade the duties should not cease. A heavy charge has been lately and publicly made against some of the highest revenue officers in this country winking at the manufacturers evading the duty, in order to induce them to continue in that practice for the sake of the fines, that they can thus levy when they please. This is no new practice.

to dine with the justices, he sat as their guest ; so that feeling, as he did, his inferiority among persons of such superior rank and education, the change to him was great, and highly mortifying. His emoluments too, being diminished, in consequence of a decrease in the number, and an abatement in the amount of the fines, he became much less eager about bringing causes before that tribunal than formerly. The excise-business thus decreased, and many other affairs of another nature came to be agitated there.

The people in general were firmly convinced that wherever Lord Errol presided, justice would be administered with the strictest impartiality ; or, if ever any favour was shown, it would lean towards the side of the party which was least able to vindicate its own rights. All *honest* men, therefore, who found themselves engaged in a dispute with others, were anxious to have their causes brought before that tribunal.—There, every man was allowed to state his own case, in the best manner he could, was confronted with the other party, and the truth investigated in their presence. In this manner, with a due degree of attention, his Lordship and the other judges were seldom at a loss to decide according to justice. So much satisfaction did these decisions afford, that the causes brought before that tribunal, most of them, indeed, of small amount in respect to money, but of great importance in regard to the parties concerned, became extremely numerous. It frequently happened that some hundreds of causes were decided at one sitting ; yet I have not heard that ever one person thought of lodging an appeal from the decisions of this court, during the course of nearly twenty years that Lord Errol continued to take an active lead in it.

These may perhaps appear to be very uninteresting details to persons who consider nothing as of importance except those which relate to great objects ; but to men who look upon the prosperity of the state, and the wel-

fare of the people as of importance, these details will be accounted as highly interesting. Nothing which could affect the prosperity or the happiness of the meanest individual was considered, by Lord Errol, during the latter part of his life, as trivial. Without making an ostentatious parade of humanity, his mind felt a sensible delight in contemplating the prosperity and happiness of all around him, which produced an uninterrupted tendency to promote the welfare of the friendless. By the prompt decisions that were given in this court, that rancour of mind which protracted law-suits never fail to engender among neighbours, was prevented.—The expences these law-suits used to occasion were avoided.—The wife and family at home, feeling themselves thus in more easy circumstances, became more chearful, more kind, more industrious†. Home thus became more desirable to the husband; his social affections were awakened, and a general diffusion of happiness was the consequence. The very sight of this respectable court, and the reflections it excited in the minds of those who came before it, were highly friendly to the best interests of society. The poor, who had been formerly accustomed to look upon those of high rank as their enemies, now, when they found them acting as their protectors; when they saw the highest men in the country appropriating a considerable portion of time to their business,—listening with patient attention to their little causes of complaint; carefully searching out the truth, with a warmth of interest that they had deemed impossible; when they found the justices protecting them, at times, against the improper exactions of some of the order of justices themselves‡, they were obliged to alter their

† There cannot be a juster maxim than the old proverb;—"When Poverty comes in at the door, Love flies out at the window."

‡ The following is a case of this sort, which deserves to be recorded. One of the justices, a man of great fortune, but of a narrow and sordid disposition, was sued before this court by one of his servants, for the re-

opinion, and could not avoid esteeming the men they had formerly detested. Even the reprimands, or the advices with which their decisions were often accompanied, had a wonderful effect in cherishing principles of justice, order, and œconomy in the minds of those who heard them. Every transaction of this court thus tended, in the happiest manner, to bring together two orders of men that had been accidentally estranged from each other by erroneous ideas, which the spirit of the times had engendered.

In promoting these great and beneficent objects, and in the enjoyment of the peaceful serenity of domestic tranquillity, were spent the last fifteen or sixteen years of the life of Lord Errol. Unfortunate it was for Aberdeenshire that this period was so short; for had the same system of management been rigidly adhered to for half a century, the beneficial changes it would have produced would have been inconceivably great. But nothing in this world is permanent. Lord Errol's friends beheld, with regret, that his health was impaired.—During the last two years of his life especially, his de-

covery of wages due to him.—When the master was called on to state his reasons for refusing this demand, he said, the servant had killed a mare to him, and that he stopped the wages as a small indemnification for the loss he had thus sustained.—The servant immediately made answer, with great energy and native simplicity of expression, “It is true, Sir, I did kill your mare; but I hope in God no man shall ever be able to make me do the like in future.—You know well, and all the servants about the house know it also, that I told you repeatedly, that if you persisted in causing the beast to work so much, and would not allow her to get more food, she would certainly die; but you always insisted that what I said was nonsense, and obliged me to go on, till, God forgive me for it! I was forced to drive the poor beast till she died:—but never shall any other man compel me to do the like, if I should beg my bread for it.”—The tear stood in the poor fellow's eye while he uttered this.—The other servants concurred unanimously in asserting the same thing.—The master was ordered to pay the full wages, and all expences, and he was, besides, fined as far as the powers of the justices allowed them to go.—He was also severely reprimanded for the brutality and injustice of his conduct, the judges only regretting that their powers did not extend so far as to permit them to award a proper punishment.—It is needless to add that this was a very popular decision.

cline was great, and perceptible to all who saw him. Still, however, the beneficence of his mind continued unabated;—nor did his chearfulness of disposition forsake him; till at last he sunk to rest, on the 3d day of June 1778, in the fifty-third year of his age, leaving not one enemy behind him.

In this slight sketch biographical accuracy has not been aimed at. The few following facts and dates it may prove satisfactory to some to know. James, Earl of Errol, was born April 20th, O. S. 1726.—He was educated first at the school of Dalkeith, and afterwards at the University of Glasgow. He married, 1st, Rebecca Lockhart, daughter of Alexander Lockhart of Craig-house, Esq. September 15, 1749. She died May 1st, 1761, leaving issue one daughter. He married 2d, Isabella Carr, daughter of William Carr of Etal, Esq; August 3d 1762, who survived him, and is still in life, by whom he had three sons and nine daughters.

Additional Remarks on the Poetry of Buchanan.

(Continued from p. 239.)

TO write a regular criticism on the poetical works of Buchanan, or to give even but a faint idea of the wonderful variety of their contents and beauties would require a large volume. They were published at very different times, and a considerable part of them did not appear in print till long after his death. No author appears to have bestowed more attention in the composition of his writings; but if we except his version of the Psalms, few seem to have bestowed less care upon their publication. It has been said, that negligence and modesty are the common attendants of true genius.—The example of Buchanan, at least in his character as a poet, may be adduced to justify this maxim. The reader may be amused by a short account of each of

the principal sections into which his original poems have usually been divided. It seems unnecessary to speak here of his psalms, as they are in the hands of every school-boy.

I. It has already been observed, that, by the desire of James V. he began a poem entitled *Franciscanus*. After an exile of twenty-four years he returned to his native country, "now," as he says, "beyond the hopes of all men, happily delivered from the tyranny of monsters." His satire left unfinished for so great a lapse of time, was published in the year 1564, with a dedication to his friend, the well-known Earl of Murray. Buchanan was now at the age of fifty-eight; he had rambled over a great part of Europe, had seen, and suffered, and reflected much, and he possessed, in an ample degree, the proverbial sensibility of a poet. We are therefore entitled to expect a superior monument of his abilities and his vengeance. The Franciscan will satisfy our most sanguine wishes. It extends to nine hundred and thirty-six lines, and opens by the author enquiring at an acquaintance, a Franciscan novice, what he means by this sudden grimace, and affectation of sanctity in his appearance. He adjures him, in the most solemn manner, to spurn the trammels of vulgar superstition, to distrust the pomp of the hierarchy, so much admired by the masters of mankind, and examine Christianity by the sacred light of reason. He proceeds, in a vein of irony, to tell him that he himself had once indulged the same sort of frenzy, but had been diverted from it by the sage advice of his friend Eubulus. The author next repeats his admonitions, in the form of a harangue, from this imaginary preceptor, who goes on for a few sentences in a calm, temperate style, with an evident design to gain the confidence of the reader. But suddenly, as if impatient to repair the loss of time, Eubulus, or rather Buchanan, bursts out in a torrent of reproach. A literal translation of the poem would extend to the size of a pamphlet. Every sentence a-

bounds with the wit, eloquence, and sublimity of Juvenal; the copiousness of sentiment, the facility of expression, and the contemptuous rage which distinguish the admirable, though neglected Claudian†. The Franciscans are exhibited, in every point of view, as vultures tearing out the vitals of society. The writer describes, at great length, their numberless arts of imposing upon the mob, and especially upon the weaker sex. He tells, what we know to be true, that when a wealthy penitent was at the point of death, it was their practice to extort, under the terrors of eternal perdition, an extravagant legacy to their convent; and he affirms, what is sufficiently credible, that by such exactions, many families had been ruined. He enlarges upon their pride, ignorance, dulness, envy, hypocrisy, debauchery, and selfishness; their factious spirit, treachery, cowardice, and personal nastiness: their superstition, loquacity, and impudent affectation of taciturnity. He displays their progress in the various sciences of scandal, pimping, treason, rebellion, seduction, cuckoldom, and sodomy. He represents the various hazards they run of being gelded, and affirms that confession, purgatory, and transubstantiation are absurd impostures. "An ass," says Buchanan, "though you cloath him in Tyrian purple, continues to be stupid, and a tyger to be savage. Magpies will always chatter, and vipers will always sting." His inference is, that a Franciscan has an invincible propensity to every human vice. Having in short, asserted their utter degradation below the rest of the species, and having diversifi-

† Buchanan, with the taste of a scholar, mentions this great author in the most respectful terms. Dryden rashly and impertinently censures him. In many respects Claudian has a strong resemblance to the two moderns. Indeed, though much inferior to both, he approaches nearer to their general character than any single ancient poet. There is far less nonsense in his text than we commonly imagine. Dryden has presumed to condemn him for his bad taste, and has, at the same time, left us six volumes of plays which contain perhaps an hundred tolerable pages.

ed his performance by some ludicrous anecdotes, he concludes by telling the noviciate, that, upon the expostulations of Eubulus, he had renounced holy water, the girdle, the cowl, and the shaven crown, as ridiculous marks of distinction, invented for the most sordid and infamous purposes. The whole work is worthy of Buchanan, the advocate and avenger of insulted truth; and if considered merely as an animated and faithful picture, must be highly curious and instructive. As a specimen of the spirit of this poem, it may be proper to extract a few lines, subjoining, as usual, a prose translation. After a long detail of the various circumstances which multiplied monastic vermin, he proceeds thus:

“ Adjice præterea quos præceps alea nudat,
 Quos Venus enervat, quos & potatio perniox
 Ejecit patriis laribus, quos urget egestas,
 Et quibus haudquaquam res sunt in amore secundæ,
 Fastosæque inopes exclusit limen amicæ,
 Quos scelus infamat, tutor quos urget avarus,
 Huc, velut ad tutum cunctis est cursus asylum.
 Hoc procerum è numero crescit generosa propage
 Funigeri gregis: hi patres quibus ille superbit
 Ordo sacer, seges hæc orbis moderatur habenas,
 Quos metus, ira, furor, mens tarda, ignavia, crimen,
 Ambitio, res adversæ, fastidia vitæ,
 Durus amor, durus pater, implacata noverca,
 Et mendax virtutis amor, collegit in unum.

“ Namque velut quondam cum res adversa premebat,
 Ad laqueum, ad præceps, ad toxica, flumina, pontes,
 Atque truces gladios, caligantesque fenestras,
 Cursus erat, duram cupienti evadere sortem:
 Sic modo cum sceleris pudor, aut formido severi
 Judicis, aut gravior cunctis infamia pœnis
 Urget, ad hunc scopulum Francisci in firmate fene
 Cingimur, & tanquam pariter cum vertice radi
 Mens etiam scelerata queat: de sacrilegis et
 De parricidis de furiis, atque cinædis,
 Nos faciat cæli subitos rasura colonos.”

“ Add besides those whom dice have hurled into
 “ ruin, whom venery has enfeebled, or whom mid-
 “ night carousals have driven from the inheritance of

“ their fathers ; those whom downright beggary sweeps
 “ before it ; those disappointed in love, and against
 “ whom, for want of money, an insolent mistress bolts
 “ her door ; those become infamous by their crimes ;
 “ and those who dread their punishment.—Here also
 “ there is a safe refuge for boys robbed by the rapacity
 “ of their guardians. From these worthy tribes are
 “ embodied the noble band of Franciscans. These are
 “ the fathers of whom this sacred order is so proud.
 “ This is the generation that steers the helm of the
 “ world ; miscreants whom rage, madness, and terror,
 “ dulness, laziness, and guilt, ambition, poverty, and
 “ despair, disastrous love, a sulien father, an implacable
 “ stepmother, and a farcical pretence of godliness have
 “ confounded together.

“ In former days a wretch distracted by misfortunes
 “ had recourse to a halter, a precipice, a dagger, or a
 “ dose of poison ; or rushed into a river, or leaped from
 “ a bridge, or a high window, that he might avoid the
 “ shock of adversity ; but now, when the pangs of con-
 “ science, or fear of a severe judge, or infamy more
 “ terrible than every other punishment pursues a cri-
 “ minal, he binds a cord about his middle, and takes
 “ refuge under the cowl of St. Francis. And, as if
 “ to shave the crown could stifle the agonies of guilt,
 “ the razor suddenly consecrates a swarm of devotees,
 “ transformed from thieves, parricides, blasphemers,
 “ and catamites.”

This poem affords a fine counter-part to Dryden's
 Hind and Panther ; and how much more honourably
 would he have been employed in turning it into Eng-
 lish verse ? We cannot wonder that Buchanan was
 persecuted through life by the blood-hounds of super-
 stition, or that his memory has been loaded with a
 whole library of reproaches, the most unjust and incre-
 dible. I shall dismish this article by the insertion of
 three lines, which may be read with pleasure, but can-

not be translated with decency. In seducing a young girl, our author says,—

“ Et pede tange pedem, dextram dextra, oribus ora :

“ Sic, dicis, rides, sic molliter oscula jungis;

“ *Oscula commissas inter lætæntia linguas !—*

II. Another section of his works is entitled *Fratres Fraterrimi*, and consists chiefly of satires, in various kinds of verse, against the Catholic clergy of every description, from several of the popes, one of whom he compares to Judas Iscariot, down to the monks. The collection concludes with some of those juvenile essays which the author composed against the Franciscans at the desire of the Scottish monarch. Several English poets have, at a mature age, affected to print pieces exactly as they had been written by themselves when at school. Milton, among others, has encumbered posterity with this sort of trumpery. In the works of Dryden we can easily distinguish that his stile is gradually improving down to his translation of Virgil; and the noblest ode in any language was itself the very last effort of his muse. In the text of Buchanan no such distinction is discernible. What he had written in youth he either committed to the flames, or improved into a perfect equality with his later productions; and he is above the paltry vanity of telling us in the title of a piece, that it was written at twelve or sixteen. The reader has nothing to do with the age of an author, but with the merit of his writings. From this digression I return to the *Fratres Fraterrimi*. This miscellany consists of 36 articles, with a humorous dedication to a man of letters. The worship of images and pictures, and transubstantiation, the columns upon which popery rested, are here overwhelmed in a torrent of ridicule. An ode inscribed to Queen Elizabeth, is written in the highest stile of Horace, and contains an eloquent summary of the preceding glories of her reign; among which the extirpation of monkery stands foremost.—There is a

strange dialogue between a painter and a baker, disputing which of them could make deities soonest. The painter founds his pretensions on his profession of drawing the pictures of the saints, while the baker boasts that he can make ten thousand holy wafers in an hour. The miscellany begins with a poem at the expence of a rich abbot, whose life and conduct Buchanan contrasts with that of the divine founder of Christianity. We have also a furious invective against the kingdom of Portugal, including a warm panegyric on the climate and people of France. But the most remarkable piece in this collection is an ode of eleven stanzas, upon the conduct of the Portuguese in Brazil. He invokes the Angel who destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah to hurl his thunderbolts against the execrable invaders; and concludes with an ardent wish that the earth may open to swallow them, or the fire of heaven blast them. In a word, it is the finest invective against the tyranny of Europeans in America that the world has probably ever seen. From the peculiar boldness and rapidity of its stile, a critic of learning would perhaps venture to say that this ode comes nearest of all poetry to the martial enthusiasm of Tyrtæus. Every line seems to flash from the heart of the writer.—There is, there can be nothing more awfully sublime.

(To be continued.)

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

IN performance of my promise to continue my translations of the epistles in my select volume, formerly mentioned, please accept of the following from

L. Annaus Seneca to Lucilius.

I am, Sir, your humble Servant,

A. B.

“ Your letter delighted me, and raised me from languor. It excited the powers of my declining imagination. You are convinced then, my Lucilius, that the foundation and preserver of a happy life is the persuasion that to be good is to be happy, and that they only are truly happy who circumscribe their ambition by the attainment of virtue. Indeed, how can it be otherwise? since they who seek for happiness on the slippery and ever-revolving wheel of Fortune, must become the miserable slaves of Fortune and her favourites. Here, you see one inconsolable for the loss of children, there, another because he has none to inherit his estate: here, one tormenting himself with the love of another man's wife, there, a luckless husband harrassed by the caprices of his own. He parts with her, and repents. A third, elevated to the height of his ambition, sinks in the mud of luxury, and is overwhelmed by the languor of fatiated desire, or looks forward to death with horror, as the approaching termination of his pleasures.

“ The fear of death is the scourge of sensuality: it sits on the lap of pleasure with us, and chases us into the inmost recesses of our gratification, nor does it come as a friend in our uttermost distress. We start at the very name of the terrible destroyer of our existence, as persecuted birds do at the slightest noise, even the rustling of leaves. No one, therefore can be said to be happy who fears this enemy, or who builds his hope upon the smiles of Fortune. Terror is on the one hand, and perturbation on the other. Do you, my Lucilius, contemplate Fortune as the holder of a gaming-table, encouraging the successful to squander what they have gained, and if she gives you a successful throw, retire, and learn to be satisfied, by seeing the reverses of Fortune in your associates.—*To be good is to be happy.*

“ Behold the numberless examples of the justest and most excellent of men, whose lives have been spent in one continued tissue of distress, from the exercise of their sympathy, benevolence, and fortitude. Do you

think they could have persevered if superior happiness had not endeared to them the paths of self-denial and Virtue ?

“How delightful the rose to him who travels through thorns, or the lovely meadow, the river, the foliage, and the rock to him who wanders through a dreary waste; but how infinitely dreadful the thorn to the rosy votary of pleasure, and the dreary waste to the enervated favourite of Fortune !

“The man, therefore, Lucilius, who orders his life according to the intention of his nature, by preferring intellectual to animal pleasure, assimilates himself to the deity, and, guided by benevolence on the principles of justice, he contributes to the same order and happiness in others. Formed by Nature to look continually forward to certain shining points of attainment, where he thinks he shall have rest from his labours, when he attains them he is actuated by undiminished desire to set forward and to aspire after greater, and thus he proceeds continually, till his frame is exhausted, and he moulders into dust.

“Other creatures, when free from pain or uneasiness, and abounding in the pleasures of sense, are tranquil and satisfied with their condition ; they aim not at improvement. The swallow builds her nest to-day as she did in the days of Deucalion ; no change or progress of improvement is to be observed in animated nature except in man. Man, therefore, is to be considered as the lord of the world, not on account of his superior skill and address in subduing creation to his purposes, but because he alone is able to contemplate and discover the nature of that world in which the gods have placed him. “*Credo Deum immortalem sparsisse animos in corpora humana ut essent, qui terras tuerentur, quique cœlestium ordinem contemplantes imitarentur eum vitæ modo et constantia.*”

“Now, goodness or true virtue consisting in being obedient to the laws of our intellectual nature, it is evident,

that when we depart from these we must be unhappy ; and what do you think it is that creates that restlessness and discontent of mind that we every day observe in society, but the troublesome efforts of travellers that have lost their road, and are seeking to regain it by foolish conjectures of their own, without wisely returning back to the point where they left it, that they may find all things accommodated to their progress.

“The view of disorder and incoherence is naturally unpleasing ; we delight in the symmetry of buildings, and in the intercolumniations of a house or of a temple, because they make us to understand the nature and the uses of the parts, and of the whole. In like manner, when we act from the impulses of passion, and the gratifications of sense, without a final and rational purpose, our whole intellectual frame is disturbed, and we naturally desire to regain our tranquillity, which can be obtained only by strict conformity to goodness, or Virtue, which consists altogether in rendering the body obedient to the soul, in the pursuit of final purposes that are conducive to its perpetual improvement.

“Consider, for a moment, the preposterous attempt to make a body that is continually subject to change, and tending continually to new desires, arising from the different stages of infancy, youth, manhood, and age, and its variety of local situations, settle itself on determined objects of fruition, for which its powers, as of short duration and intensity, must quickly produce disappointment or satiety and disgust.

“Thus the man who should place his chief delight in hunting the stag or the boar, must become miserable when either his infirmities or the want of opportunity should prevent him from enjoying his pursuit ; and thus the woman who placed her happiness in the public games and spectacles of Rome, and in the admiration of young men, would languish in the country, and

lose her happiness when age rendered her incapable of receiving and enjoying these pleasures.

“Let us then, my dear Lucilius, preserve in ourselves the eternal and beautiful spring of intellectual nature, by flying from the heat of passions, from the fruits of luxury, and the gloomy apathy of a wintry old age.

Farewell.”

This epistle of Seneca is written more on the model of antiquity than any of those that have hitherto seen the light. Quintilian, or whoever wrote the famous treatise on the decline of Roman eloquence, annexed to the works of Tacitus, has described the debasement of the Roman taste by the popular writers who succeeded to the Augustan age, whose quaint, flippant, pointed manner is now imitated by our Gibbons, Burkes, and Junius's of England, while Swift, Atterbury, Hume, and a few others, remain in our age possessed of the chaste propriety and dignity of those who have set up the Greek historians for their models.

How glorious would it be for a band of such men to associate in Britain for chastising the meretricious innovators, who are encouraged by the tasteless people of the age, to enervate our language and our manners!

St. Augustine and St. Jerome mention letters of Seneca to St. Paul, which are now lost; and others, evidently spurious, were substituted in their place, by the pious fraud of later Christians, to support a cause that needs no advocates, nor any aids that are adventitious.

For my own part, I am of opinion that Seneca did actually attend to the doctrines of the Christians, and was moved and inclined, though secretly, to support their cause; because he has avoided, in the whole of his voluminous writings, touching upon any points that might glance at his being infected by their superstition, so dangerous, in appearance, to a jealous tyrant; and that his profound silence can hardly be accounted for in any other manner. In his xli. epistle to Lucilius he

has a passage which inculcates a belief, almost verbatim, one of those asserted by St. Paul. Know you not that the Spirit of God is in you except ye be reprobate†? and again, He is near unto every one of you.

A. B.

Anecdote, Sir Christopher Wren,

WHEN he built St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, the noblest monument of his geometrical skill, had most certainly in his eye the High Church, Edinburgh, and St. Nicholas's church at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. His towers that adorn the front of Westminster-Abbey were taken from those of Beverly Minster, in Yorkshire. Sir Christopher intended a spire for the middle of the church, but gave it up, from apprehension that the fabric would not bear it. The library of All-Souls-College, in Oxford, possesses many original drawings of this great architect; and amongst others, his designs for the cathedral of St. Paul's. It is curious to observe in them the progress of Sir Christopher's ideas in the beautiful dome of that fabric. He had originally intended to have crowned it with a pine-apple, but wisely decorated it with a cross, as it now stands. Sir Christopher was much impeded and harrassed in this great work by the care of expence of the curators of it. He had intended to have had a very fine baldaquino at the altar, like that of St. Peter's at Rome. Dr. Compton, bishop of London, had sent for the marbles for its composition; or rather, as the Parentalia says, the specimens were shewn to the Architect by that Prelate. Sir Christopher not approving of them, the design was given up.

† Prope est à te Deus, tecum est, intus est. Ita dico, Lucili, sacer intra nos Spiritus sedet, malorum bonorumque nostrorum Observator et Custos; hic prout à vobis tractatus est, ita nos ipse tractat.

The present Chapter of the Cathedral having admitted sculpture into it, in the monuments of Dr. Johnson and Mr. Howard, it is to be hoped that the illustrious architect of the fabric will partake of the honour of a statue in his own cathedral, the present sarcophagus erected to him, with a quibbling kind of epitaph, being seldom seen or noticed by persons who visit the church. The effect of decoration on this at present denuded fabric may be seen, by inspecting a plate, published some years ago by Mr. Gywnne, in which the dome and some other parts of it are seen as ornamented according to the intention of Sir Christopher. To make the perspective of the church appear to the greatest advantage, and to be magnificent indeed, the heavy and immense organ that crosses the entrance into the choir should be placed on one side, as is done at Winchester, and painted glass should be inserted into the east window.

“ Hic jacet

“ CHRISTOPHORUS WREN, Eques.

“ Si Monumentum quæris

“ Circumspice,”

is the inscription on the sarcophagus that contains the remains of this great geometer and celebrated architect. It should be engraven upon the stone that is in the middle of the pavement, directly under the dome of St. Paul's.

Revolutions of Life.

Indigence and Obscurity are the parents of *Vigilance and Oeconomy*.—*Vigilance and Oeconomy* of *Riches and Honour*.—*Riches and Honour* of *Pride and Luxury*.—*Pride and Luxury* of *Impurity and Idleness*.—*Impurity and Idleness* of *Indigence and Obscurity*.—Such are the revolutions of life!

Ode on the Pleasure arising from Vicissitude.

Found among the papers of the late ingenious Mr Gray, and never printed in his works.

Now the golden morn aloft
Waves her dew-bespangled wing ;
With vermil' cheek, and whisper soft,
She wooes the tardy spring :—
Till April starts, and calls around
The sleeping fragrance from the ground :
And lightly o'er the living scene,
Scatters his freshest tend'rest green.
New born flocks, in rustic dance,
Frisking ply their feeble feet ;
Forgetful of their wint'ry trance,
The birds his presence greet.—
But chief the sky-lark warbles high,
His trembling thrilling extacy ;
And less'ning from the dazzled sight,
Melts into air and liquid light.
Yesterday the fullen year
Saw the snowy whirlwind fly ;
Mute was the music of the air,
The herd stood drooping by :—
Their raptures now that wildly flow,
No yesterday or morrow know ;
'Tis man alone that joy describes,
With forward and reverted eyes,
Smiles on past misfortunes' brow.
Soft Reflection's hand can trace ;
And o'er the cheek of sorrow throw
A melancholy grace :—
While hope prolongs our happier hour,
Or deepest shades, that dimly lour,
And blacken round our weary way,
Gilds with a gleam of distant day.

Still where rosy pleasure leads,
 See a kindred grief pursue ;
 Behind the step that mis'ry treads,
 Approaching comfort view :—
 The hues of bliss more brightly glow,
 Chastis'd by sabler tints of woe ;
 And blended form, with artful strife,
 The strength and harmony of life.
 See the wretch that long has tost
 On the thorny bed of pain,
 At length repair his vigour lost,
 And breath and walk again ;—
 The meanest flow'ret of the vale,
 The simplest note that swells the gale ;
 The glowing sun, the air, the skies,
 To him are opening paradise.

A Song.

'Tis hope supports each noble flame,
 'Tis hope inspires poetic lays,
 Our heroes fight in hopes of fame,
 And poets write in hopes of praise.
 She sings sweet songs of future years,
 And dries the tears of present sorrow ;
 Bids doubting mortals cease their fears,
 And tells them of a bright to-morrow.

And where true love a visit pays,
 The minstrel hope is always there,
 'To soothe young Cupid with her lays,
 And keep the lover from despair.
 She sings sweet songs of future years,
 And dries the tears of present sorrow ;
 Bids doubting mortals cease their fears,
 And tells them of a bright to-morrow.

Agricultural News.

SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE IN LISBON.

THOUGH Portugal has made small advances as yet in the study of Agriculture, they now begin to turn their attention towards that science. In imitation of the Royal Academy at Paris, and so many other places, a society for promoting the study of Agriculture has been established at Lisbon under Royal patronage. One volume, in octavo, of the transactions of that society, has been already published, entitled *Memorias da Agricultura*, which will probably be followed by others. This contains the papers that gained premiums in the years 1787 and 1788.

COPENHAGEN SOCIETY.

A SOCIETY has also been instituted in Denmark, whose object is to spread useful knowledge among the peasantry, and the lower classes of the people, by collecting proper books and distributing them gratis. Such attempts, though they may indicate good intentions in the promoters of it, display, at the same time, their ignorance of the true principles of political oeconomy. The people are slaves, and can be little benefited by any improvement that can be made: Vain therefore must be the efforts to induce them to be active by any modes of instruction. Let the people once feel that every exertion they can make will redound to their own profit, and their industry will be instantly augmented.—Tell me that a people are indolent, ignorant, and slow to adopt improvements, and I require no other proof for assuring me, that there are many and great radical defects in the system of government that there prevails, though I may know nothing about the nature of these defects. Long has a great part of our own country groaned under an oppressive system of civil polity;—the people have been sunk thereby into misery;—they have been accused of indolence;—they are forced to leave their country. Thus do those whose business it is to give them relief, instead of searching for the

fault in themselves, arrogantly load those with reproach who are suffering by their ignorance, indolence, and pride*.

MR DALE

of Glasgow is not to be ranked among this number. This gentleman, the worthy correspondent and colleague in beneficence and business with Mr Dempster, pitying the hard lot of the poor emigrants who were put back to Greenock, on their passage to America, has prevailed on more than 100 out of 300, almost the whole that were not indentured, to go to his cotton works in the neighbourhood of Glasgow. Had this been the first instance of Mr Dale's beneficence, I should perhaps have taken some merit to myself for having given the hint; but his mind is too enlightened and humane to require any such stimulus; and I make no doubt but he will soon experience the good effects of this wise policy. How different the conduct of this man, and that of those who bend their chief endeavours to wrest the pittance from the hand of industry, and to drive the best subjects of the state to seek for refuge, from the oppressor, elsewhere!

* What is here said applies to the political governors and legislators of this kingdom, and not to any class of the inhabitants themselves. These legislators multiply absurd laws, that tend to cramp every attempt at exertion. They thus deprive them of the means of yielding any revenue, and then squander the money that others have contributed for the use of the state, in trying to squeeze from them what they have not to give, nor can have, while this system is adhered to. Whole regiments of people are kept in pay, watching, as it would seem to an intelligent observer, with the utmost anxiety, to prevent them from ever having it in their power to benefit the community to which they belong. It is impossible for contempt for such folly, to suppress the indignation that such atrocity of conduct must excite!

National Assembly of France.

[*The National Assembly having put a period to their labours by the completion of the Constitutional Code, it may be proper to give a summary account of the ceremonies which attended its acceptance by the King, and of the business which occupied them during their posterior sittings till the 30th September, when they finally rose, and gave place to the Legislative Assembly.*]

THE Constitutional Code having been formerly presented to the King by a deputation from the Assembly, on the 13th of September, his Majesty sent the following Letter to the Assembly, which was delivered by the Minister of Justice.

“ Gentlemen,

“ I have attentively examined the constitutional act, which you have presented for my acceptance. I accept it, and I will cause it to be executed. At another time this declaration might have been sufficient; at present, I owe to the interests of the nation, I owe to myself, to make known my motives.

“ I have always, since the commencement of my reign, desired the reform of abuses; and in all acts of Government, wished to be regulated by the public opinion. Different causes, among the number of which may be placed the situation of the finances at my accession to the throne, and the immense expences of an honourable war, long supported without increase of imposts, had established a considerable disproportion between the revenues and the expences of the state.

“ Impressed with the extent of the evil, I not only sought the means of remedying; I felt the necessity of preventing its return. I had formed the project of securing the happiness of the people upon a fixed basis, and of subjecting to invariable rules, even that authority of which I was the depositary. I called on the nation to execute it.

“ In the course of the events of the revolution, my intentions never varied. When, after having reformed the ancient institutions, you began to substitute in their stead the first essays of your work, I did not delay the expression of my sentiments till the whole constitution should be known to me; I favoured the establishment of its parts, even before I could judge of the whole; and if the disorders which have attended almost all the periods of the revolution, have too frequently afflicted my heart,

I hoped that the law would resume force in the hands of new authority ; and that, in approaching the term of your labours, every day would restore to it that respect, without which the people can neither enjoy liberty nor happiness. I long persevered in this hope, and my resolution only changed at the moment when it abandoned me. Let every one recollect the moment at which I quitted Paris : The constitution was almost completed ; and, nevertheless, the authority of the laws seemed to diminish every day ; opinion, far from centering in any point, was divided into a number of parts. The most violent counsels alone seemed to be received with any degree of favour ; the licentiousness of the press was at its height ; no power was respected.

“ I could no longer perceive the expression of the general will in the laws, which I every where saw without force, and without effect. Then, I am bound to declare, if you had presented to me the constitution, I should have been of opinion that the interest of the people (the constant and uniform rule of my conduct) did not permit me to accept it. I had only one sentiment ; I formed only one project ; I wished to get at a distance from all parties, and learn what was the real wish of the nation.

“ The motives by which I was then influenced now no longer subsist : Since that time, the inconveniencies and the evils of which I complained have struck you in the same light as me ; you have testified an inclination to re-establish order : you have directed your attention to the want of discipline in the army ; you have perceived the necessity of restraining the abuses of the press. The revision of your labour has placed among the number of laws of regulation several articles which had been presented to me as constitutional. You have established legal forms for the revision of those which you have placed in the constitution. In fine, the sentiments of the people appear to me no longer doubtful : I have seen them at once displayed, both by their adherence to your work, and by their attachment to the support of monarchical government.

“ *I accept, then, the constitution ; I engage to maintain it at home, to defend it against attacks from abroad, and to cause it to be executed by all the means which it puts in my power.*

“ I declare, that, informed of the adherence of the great body of the people to the constitution, I renounce the right of concurring, which I had claimed in this work, and being responsible only to the nation ; no other, whilst I renounce it, can have a right to complain.

“ I should, however, deviate from truth, if I affirmed that I perceived in the means of execution and administration, all the energy necessary to give motion and preserve the unity in all the parts of so vast an empire ; but since opinions are divided upon these subjects, I consent that the decision should be left

to the test of experience alone. While I shall have faithfully employed all the means which are entrusted to me, no reproach can be made to me; and the nation, whose interest alone ought to be the supreme rule, will explain itself by those means which the constitution has reserved to it.

“But, Gentlemen, for the security of liberty, for the stability of the constitution, for the individual happiness of all Frenchmen, there are interests in which an imperious duty prescribes to us to combine all our efforts: These interests are respect for the laws, the re-establishment of order, and the re-union of all the citizens. Now that the constitution is definitively settled, Frenchmen living under the same laws ought to know no enemies but those who infringe them: Discord and Anarchy; These are our common enemies.

“I will oppose them with all my power: It is necessary that you and your successors second me with energy, that law, without attempting to establish its dominion over the mind, may equally protect all those who submit their conduct to its decision; that those, whom the fears of persecution and of trouble have driven from their country, be assured of finding at their return safety and tranquillity; and in order to extinguish the animosities, to soften the evils, which a great revolution always brings in its train; that law may, from this day, begin to receive a full execution, let us consent to an oblivion of the past. Let those accusations and prosecutions which originate solely from the events of the revolution, be for ever extinguished in a general reconciliation. I speak not of those who have been solely influenced by their attachment to me: Can you regard them as criminal? As to those who by excesses, in which I can perceive personal injuries have brought upon themselves the prosecution of the laws, I shall prove in all my conduct to them that I am the King of all the French.

(Signed)

LOUIS.”

“P. S. I am of opinion, Gentlemen, that I ought to pronounce my solemn acceptance of the constitution in the very place in which it was formed—and I shall come in person tomorrow at noon, to the National Assembly.”

September 14.

A short debate arose concerning the manner in which the Assembly should receive the King. M. Malouet moved, “That in token of respect to the King’s function, the Assembly should continue standing all the time he is present.” But M. d’Andre observed, that what had been practised at the opening of the States General should be followed in this instance—“On the

King's entering the hall, the members rose—on the King's speaking, they sat down, covered." This was adopted.

An officer announced the King's arrival, who immediately entered the hall, accompanied by all his ministers, without any other decoration than the cross of St Louis. The Assembly stood up, the King seated himself beside the President, and addressed the Assembly in the following words:

"I come solemnly to consecrate my acceptance of the new constitutional code. In consequence of which *I swear* (the members now sat down) *to be faithful to the nation, and to the law—to employ all the power with which I am entrusted in maintaining the constitution decreed by the National Assembly, and to cause the laws to be executed.*"

The King sat down, and the hall resounded with applauses, after which he proceeded:

"May this great and memorable epoch be that of the re-establishment of peace and union, and become the basis of the welfare of the people, and of the prosperity of the empire!"

The hall resounded for several minutes with applauses, and shouts of *Vive le Roi!*

The President standing, said, "Abuses of long standing, which had triumphed over the good intentions of the best of Kings, and had unceasingly braved the authority of the throne, had oppressed France. (The King remained sitting, and the President sat down, and proceeded)—Depositary of the wishes, of the rights, and of the power of the people, the National Assembly has established, by the destruction of all abuses, the solid basis of public prosperity. Sire, what this Assembly has decreed, the national concurrence has ratified. The most complete execution of its decrees in all parts of the empire attests the general sentiment. It deranges the weak plans of those whom discontent has too long kept blind to their own interests. It promises to your Majesty, that your wishes for the welfare of the French will no longer be vain.

"The National Assembly has nothing more to desire on this ever-memorable day, in which you complete, in its bosom, by the most solemn engagement, the acceptance of *constitutional royalty*. It is the attachment of the French, it is their confidence, who confer upon you that pure and respectable title to the most desirable crown in the universe; and what secures it to you, Sire, is the unperishable authority of a constitution freely decreed. It is the invincible force of a people who feel themselves worthy of liberty; it establishes the necessity which so great a nation will always have of an hereditary monarchy.

"When your Majesty, waiting from experience the lig- which are about to be spread by the practical result of the constitution, promises to maintain it within, and to defend it from attacks from without, the nation, trusting both to the justice of

ts rights, and to the consciousness of its force and courage, and to the loyalty of your co-operation, can entertain no apprehension of alarms from without, and is about to contribute, by its tranquil confidence, to the speedy success of its internal government.

“What ought to be great in your eyes, Sire, dear to our hearts, and what will appear with lustre in our history, is the epoch of this regeneration ; which gives to France, citizens—to the French, a country—to you, as a King, a new title of grandeur and glory—and to you again, as a man, a new source of enjoyment, and new sensations of happiness.”

Loud plaudits followed.

The King quitted the Assembly in the midst of shouts of *Vive le Roi*—The Assembly, in a body, accompanied him to the palace of the Thuilleries, in the midst of acclamations and shouts of joy from the people, military music, and repeated discharges of artillery.

September 15.

M. Goupil moved, that as the constitution was now finished, it should be published all over the empire with all possible solemnity : That, after proclaiming it in each municipality, *Te Deum* should be sung, and that this ceremony should be followed with festivals and public rejoicings ; and that this should be accompanied by a release of all the prisoners of a certain description.

These proposals were adopted—The last with some modification.

September 16.

M. Duport, in the name of the Committee of Criminal Jurisprudence, recapitulated the articles of the decree concerning the organization of juries, when several alterations were adopted, and it was decreed, “That the epocha of the existence of trial by jury is fixed for the 1st of January 1792.”

1. “That until the 1st of January 1792, criminal processes shall be continued to be carried on according to the existing forms.

2. “That the executive power shall make, without delay, all the necessary preparations for the activity of juries, from the first of January 1792.”

Upon the proposition of M. Emmery, in the name of the Constitutional and Military Committees, the Assembly passed the following decree :

“The National Assembly decrees, that the officers of the army shall take the following oath :

“I swear to be faithful to the Nation, to the Law, and to the King ; to maintain the constitution with all my power ; to execute, and to see executed, the laws and military ordinances.”

"The soldiers shall take the following oath—" I swear to be faithful &c. to defend the constitution; never to abandon my colours; to obey my superiors, and to conform to all the rules of military discipline."

M. Beaumetz read the following decree concerning the general amnesty, which was adopted without any discussion:

"The National Assembly, considering that the object of the French revolution was to give a constitution to the empire, and that therefore the revolution ought to end at the period when it has received his Majesty's acceptance: That, by how much the more culpable it will henceforth be to resist the constituted authorities, so much the more honourable it will be to forget those marks of opposition testified against the general will; and that the time hath at length arrived when dissensions ought to be extinguished by a general sentiment of patriotism and of fraternity for each other, and affection for the Monarch, who has himself given the example of this generous oblivion: It is decreed—

1. "That all prosecutions, judgments, and proceedings, which have the revolution for their object, shall be irrevocably abolished.

2. "No officer of the police, judge, &c. shall commence any fresh prosecution.

3. "The King shall be requested to order the Minister of Justice to draw up a list of those at present confined on account of the revolution.

4. "That a general amnesty shall take place in regard to all military men, accused or convicted of military offences since the 1st of June 1789.

5. "There shall no longer be occasion for any passports, the use of which was only adopted during a troublesome period; and every French citizen is hereby empowered to enter or leave the kingdom according to his inclinations."

September 19.

M. d'Andre said, that only 240 Deputies to the new Legislature had entered their names in the register, and that the slowness of their coming up was to be attributed to the uncertainty with respect to the period at which the present assembly was to be dissolved. He therefore proposed, that the constituting body should terminate its labours on Friday Sept. 30. and that a deputation should be sent to announce this resolution to the King.

The minister of public taxes presented a report of the receipts for the month of August.

The sum total paid into the treasury was only 18,096,986 livres, from which deducting five millions supplied by the fund of extraordinaries, the amount of the taxes for that month was reduced to 13,096,986 livres.

This sum was paid chiefly by the city of Paris; the payments by the other parts of the kingdom not being yet brought to account, in consequence of the new regulations in the mode of collecting them, and the necessary attention of the people to the business of the harvest.

With respect to the taxes on property real and personal, forty of the eighty-three departments had completed the assessments for the year 1791.

The amount of the assessed taxes for the whole kingdom was 300 millions.

The report concluded with expressing the opinion of the Minister, that in proportion as the obstacles which must necessarily attend so many useful changes in the mode of collection were removed, and which he thought only time was wanting to remove, the revenue would be found in a very flourishing condition.

September 20.

M. d'Andre observed, that as the general amnesty had rendered the high court of Orleans unnecessary, and as it was attended with a considerable expence, it should now be suppressed—Decreed accordingly.

Various articles were then decreed on the formality of naval courts martial, the duties of commissaries of the army, and public notaries. M. Duport said, the Assembly had never paid any attention to the various protests against its proceedings, because they seemed unworthy of its notice. The obvious effect, however, of a protest, was a retraction of the civic oath. If it was necessary to take that oath as a qualification for public offices, it followed of course that they who protested were disqualified. He therefore moved, "That they who have protested against the decrees, or have retracted their civic oath, or have published or signed a declaration against the constitution, shall be considered as not having taken the oath, and consequently, declared incapable of holding any office, civil or military."

The motion was carried by acclamation.

M. Bouillon then moved, "That those who have protested, shall be deprived of all public functions and pensions;" but this motion was referred to a committee.

September 21.

On the motion of M. d'Aguillon, it was resolved, that Madame de Richelieu, the widow of the Marechal of the same name, who is in the greatest distress, shall receive a pension, the same as the other widows of the Marshals of France.

In consequence of a report from the Constitutional Committee, it was resolved, that it should be referred to the executive power, to carry into execution the vote for erecting a statue,

and decreeing public honours to the memory of J. Jaques Rousseau.

September 22.

The Bishop of Paris informed the Assembly that he had issued a mandate for a *Te Deum* and solemn mass in the metropolitan church on Sunday next, to return thanks to God for his aid and protection in accomplishing the revolution, to which he invited all religious persons and the National Assembly to attend. Twenty-four members are to attend.

September 23.

It was decreed, that the Comtat Venaissin and Avignon shall not form a department, that they shall not elect members to the Court of Appeal, but they shall send three deputies to the Legislature.

M. Barnave reported from the Committees of Constitution, of Marine, of Agriculture and Commerce, and of Colonies, on the state of the West India colonies. He observed, that the British colonies were allowed to make laws for their internal government, while Parliament made laws for their external government, and proposed this as the model.—Deferred till next day.

September 24.

The affairs of the colonies were again taken into consideration, when the following articles were accordingly passed :

1. The Assembly reserves to itself the exclusive right of determining, with the sanction of the King, on the exterior government of the colonies.

2. The Colonial Assemblies shall be authorised to make, upon these subjects, all the representations which they think necessary.

3. The laws concerning the situation of persons not free, and the political state of persons of colour and free negroes, as well as the regulations relative to the execution of the said laws, shall be made by the Colonial Assemblies, and shall be executed provisionally, with the approbation of the Governors of the colonies, and shall be directly presented for the sanction of the King, without any anterior decree being able to obstruct the full exercise of the right intrusted by the present article to the Colonial Assemblies.

4. The forms to be observed for the completion of the laws for the internal government, which do not concern persons, shall be determined by the Legislative Body.

September 25.

A memorial, relative to the present state of the frontiers, was read by M. Duportail, and the account which he gave of the means of defence which had been adopted appeared sufficient. The Minister passed great encomiums upon Mess. Luckner and

Rochambeau, and several corps of the army, who at length pay due respect to the laws of subordination and obedience,

It was also represented by M. Duportail, that it was necessary that during the year no leave of absence should be granted, because all, or almost all the officers being new, it was most important that they should learn their duty, and should, beside, complete, by their presence, the re-establishment of discipline in the military corps, and that he had addressed a circular letter to all the regiments of the army, announcing that leave of absence would not be granted.

On a motion of M. de St Fargeau, the Assembly adopted several additional articles in the penal code, the principal of which were, that henceforth branding shall be abolished, and that the most rigorous punishment shall consist in a simple privation of life.

It was agreed, on a motion of M. Camus, that a gratification of 44,000 livres should be paid to the clerks of the Assembly. The attendants on the offices were likewise to be rewarded; and it was agreed that honourable mention should be made, in the verbal process, of the names of those enlightened persons who, by their views, their zeal, and their writings, have facilitated the operations of the present Assembly.

A letter was read from the Minister of War, on the subject of the expences necessary for defraying the present preparations for exterior defence. He therein states, that 1,180,000 livres are necessary for completing the equipment of a part of the regular troops. Landan, Givet, and Charlemont, cannot be put in a state to maintain a siege for less than 1,183,000 livres. Lastly, in proceeding with the strictest œconomy, the general equipment of the national guards cannot be effected for less than 9,811,380 livres. This letter was sent to the Military Committee.

September 26.

M. Prieur observed, that the place in which the meetings of the Assembly were held, was, for many reasons inconvenient, and unworthy of the use to which it was applied. He proposed that one more magnificent and worthy the occupation of the Legislative Body, should be prepared, either in the palace of the ancient magistrature, or built on the ruins of the Bastile.

Referred to the ensuing Legislature.

September 27.

M. le Brun stated, that there were daily sales of private libraries, which contain scarce and valuable books, worthy of being added to the King's library, now called the *national library*; that a great number of foreigners, curious in these literary treasures, purchase, and take them out of the kingdom. To prevent, in future, similar inconveniences, he proposed, that the sum of 100,000 livres should be appropriated to make such

purchases, which should be at the disposal of the Minister of the Interior Department.—Resolved.

M. le Chapellier proposed, that all persons who should in future either prefix or annex to their names any of the titles or distinctions proscribed by the new laws, should be punished by civil degradation, and declared incapable of exercising any public functions; and that all writings or agreements in which they shall use these distinctions shall be null and void; and that all public officers who shall receive such writings shall be punished by being deprived for ever of their employments.

This proposal was opposed by several members; they however agreed, that some punishment ought to be inflicted upon such delinquents, which they proposed should be a pecuniary fine; and which in no case should be less than 1000 livres. All the other pains and penalties were retained, which have even been extended to persons heretofore possessed of titles, who shall wear, or have placed on their carriages, any of those distinctive marks which have been prohibited by the laws.

On a motion of M. Duport, and in spite of a vigorous opposition from M. Rewbel, the decree, provisionally excluding Jews from the rights of citizens, was repealed.

At the end of the sitting, the suppression of all the chambers of commerce in the kingdom was decreed.

September 28.

The Assembly decreed—

That the last decree respecting the colonies should be immediately presented for the royal sanction:

That the Commissioners appointed to go to St. Domingo should depart as soon as possible:

That the general amnesty granted to all Frenchmen should be extended to the inhabitants of the colonies.

September 28.—At night.

The Assembly resolved, that the general amnesty was meant to extend to military as well as civil offences, and consequently all deserters from the army; and the President was directed to wait upon the King, and request that immediate orders might be given for the discharge of all such prisoners.

M. Broglie presented the plan of a decree from the military committee, on the mode of supplying the army with subaltern officers, which was adopted. By this decree, from and after the 15th of October next, no person can be admitted to the rank of sub-lieutenant without a previous examination, and to this examination every French citizen, of the age of sixteen, who can produce certificates of his morals and good conduct, is admissible.

September 29.

On the motion of M. Chabroud it was decreed, that the King shall be requested to present his picture to the National

Assembly, in the act of presenting the constitution to the Prince Royal, to be hung up in the hall of the legislature.

On the application of the Minister of War, eight Lieutenant-Generals, and twelve Marshals of Camp, were added to the staff.

September 30.

The Assembly having, by a former decree, resolved, that this day should be the last of their sitting, and that their successors should take their places to-morrow, met this day to terminate their labours.

The King had intimated his intention of coming in person to the Assembly, and the hall and galleries were as crowded and brilliant as on the memorable day of his acceptance of the constitution. The members of the new legislature being all admitted to the body of the Assembly, and the municipality of Paris, as well as the directors of the department, being invited to assist at the sitting, in consequence of addresses which they presented, made it infinitely more brilliant.—The Assembly closed their labours by receiving the last reports from the committees on different subjects, particularly the military code, and by publishing an account of the state of the finances, of the sums in the national treasury, of the receipt of the taxes, of the contributions received by the departments, and of the precise state in which they were to deliver over the affairs of the kingdom to their successors. The accounts were received with the highest pleasure, and were considered as highly favourable to the nation.—M. Montesquieu stated, that there were 35 millions in the national treasury, of which 18 millions were in specie; and the members of the Committee of Finance pledged themselves personally for the fidelity of the accounts, and that they would be ready to answer for them to the next Legislature.

Before three o'clock they had done all their business, and prepared for the royal presence. In the proceedings of the day before, they had determined to receive the King with more respect than on the former occasion.—Only one chair of state was placed on the platform, to the left of the ordinary chair of the President.—At half past three the King was announced, and he entered, preceded by the deputation of members, and by his ministers, who, instead of being seated on chairs at the bar, took their stand behind the King. The Assembly were all standing and uncovered. The King was dressed in purple, embroidered, and with the red ribbon and star, as patron of the order of St. Louis. He was received with the most lively acclamation. He drew a paper from his waistcoat pocket, and read his speech. He read it standing, which, by the arrangement previously made, kept all the members on their legs. His deportment and manner was through the whole much more dignified, collected, and cheerful than on the day of the acceptance. In reading the speech he was interrupted twenty times by torrents of applause.—The speech was as follows :

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ You have terminated your labours—the constitution is finished—I have promised to maintain it, to cause it to be executed—it is proclaimed by my orders. The constitution, from which France expects prosperity, this fruit of your cares and watchings, will be your récompence; France, made happy by your labours, will communicate her happiness to you. Return to your homes, and tell your fellow-citizens that the happiness of the French ever has been, and ever will be, the object of my wishes; that I neither have nor can have any interest but the general interest; that my prosperity consists only in the public prosperity; that I shall exert all the powers entrusted to me to give efficacy to the new system; that I shall communicate it to foreign courts; and shall in every thing prove that I can only be happy in the happiness of the people of France.

“ Tell them also that the revolution has reached its period, and that the firmest support of the constitution is now the re-establishment of order. You, gentlemen, in your several departments, will undoubtedly second my vigilance and care with all your power; you will give the first example of submission to the laws which you have framed; in the capacity of private citizens you will display the same character as in the capacity of public men: and the people seeing their legislators exercise, in private life, those virtues which they have proclaimed in the National Assembly, will imitate them, discharge with pleasure the obligation which the public good imposes on them, and cheerfully pay the taxes decreed by their representatives. It is by this happy union of sentiments, of wishes, and exertions, that the constitution will be confirmed, and that the nation will enjoy all the advantages which it guarantees.”

The President immediately made the following answer, which was also highly applauded:

“ SIRE,

“ The adherence of the nation ratifies the constitution decreed by the Assembly of the representatives of the nation. Your Majesty has accepted it, and the public joy is a sufficient testimony of the general assent. It promises that your Majesty will no longer desire in vain the happiness of the French. On this memorable day the National Assembly has nothing more to wish; and the nation, by its tranquil confidence, is ready to co-operate for the prompt success of its internal government.”

The King then left the Assembly in the same order that he entered, amidst the shouts of the people.

The Assembly continued, and, as it had been previously settled, proceeded to read over the minutes of the day, and finally concluded by pronouncing their own dissolution, and separating to meet no more.

SHORT CHRONICLE

OF EVENTS.

[SEPT. 28. 1791.]

FOREIGN.

FRENCH CONSTITUTION.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, Sept. 3.

THE Assembly resumed the consideration of the Constitutional Code; and many, among which was the one establishing the right of the nation to change, whenever it should think proper, its form of government, underwent some slight alterations. The question, whether the decree which takes from the King the power of pardoning, should make part of the constitutional code? gave rise to a long debate; when the Assembly determined it should not.

Other observations of little importance then took place; and it was generally agreed that no farther addition should be made to the constitutional code, and the Assembly completed it by the following concluding paragraph:—"The National Assembly has resolved, that the constitution is completed, and that no further change can take place in it."

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On a proposal of M. d'Andre, it was then determined, that a deputation of 60 members should, in the course of the day, present the constitutional code to the King.

M. Prilur observed, that as the constitution was about being presented to the King, it was likewise necessary that the whole of France should be made acquainted with it: He therefore moved, that without delay it should be printed, and circulated throughout all the departments of the kingdom. This proposal was adopted.

M. Delley d'Agier moved, 1. That no member should be allowed, even now that the constitution is completed, to absent himself from the Assembly without leave.

2. That the present Senate, on restoring to the nation the immense power with which it has been invested by it, shall style itself *The Legislative Assembly*.—These two motions were adopted.

On a proposal by M. Lavie, the President was authorized to appoint 60 members who should

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present to the King the constitutional code.

The President accordingly read the list of the members who were to form this deputation, after which the Assembly arose.

The members of the deputation assembled in the hall at the hour appointed; but the copy of the constitutional code not being completed, they waited till half past 8 o'clock, when the President, instead of taking the chair, ascended the tribune, and informed the members present that he had announced to the King the deputation of the National Assembly, and that the King had said that he was ready to receive it. The deputation accordingly began its march, attended by flambeaux, between two files of National Guards, and an immense crowd of people on both sides, who kept great silence. The deputation was received in the Council Chamber. The King was surrounded by all his Ministers, and a great number of other persons.

The Reporter of the Committee of Constitution, M. Thouret, spoke as follows:

"The representatives of the nation present to your Majesty the constitutional code, which consecrates the imprescriptible rights of the French people, which restores to the throne its true dignity, and which organizes the government of the empire."

THE KING'S ANSWER.

"I receive the constitution

offered to me by the National Assembly.—I will communicate my resolution to the National Assembly as soon as the examination of so important an object will render it possible. *I am determined to remain in Paris.*—I will give orders to the Commandant of the National Parisian Guard, respecting the guard for my person."

The deputation returned to the hall of the Assembly by the same way and in the same order in which they left it, when M. Thouret gave an account to the members there of what he said to the King, and his Majesty's answer.

September 13.

M. Duport du Tertre, Minister of Justice, presented to the President a letter from the King, (in his Majesty's own hand writing), remarking, at some length, upon the present state of affairs; declaring his free acceptance of the constitution as decreed by the Assembly, the power or energy of which to govern so great an empire, he leaves to the test of experience; recommending a general oblivion of the past, a relinquishment of all prosecutions originating from the events of the revolution, and a general amnesty to all persons who had left the kingdom:—And that he will come in person to the National Assembly next day at noon, to pronounce his solemn acceptance of the Constitution in the same place in which it was formed.

The letter was received by the Assembly with great ap-

plause, and repeated exclamations of *Vive le Roi!* resounded throughout the hall.

M. la Fayette immediately rose and moved, "That the Assembly do decree a general amnesty—That all persons under prosecution on account of the King's departure, shall be instantly liberated—That all other prosecutions on account of the revolution be annulled—That a decree be passed to abolish the use of passports; and all other temporary impediments which may hinder French citizens from passing into or out of the kingdom."—These were all immediately decreed.

It was also decreed, "That notwithstanding the suppression of all insignia of military orders, the King and Prince Royal should wear the *cordon bleu*."

A deputation of 60 members was appointed to present the above decrees to the King, and to express the happiness his acceptance of the constitution had diffused.

September 14.

The King, this day at 12 o'clock, repaired to the National Assembly; and personally confirmed his acceptance of the constitution. The hall, and all the avenues to it, through which the King passed, were crowded with people, who generally expressed the most lively exultation. His Majesty seemed very sensibly affected by the acclamations of the crowd.

The ceremony was conducted with much regularity and honour, and the effect was grand and impressive. A large

detachment of National Guards escorted the King, and the procession moved between two lines of the same troops. His acceptance before the Assembly was announced by a general discharge from the artillery of the National Guards.

The King did not appear in the *cordon bleu*.

The King, who is now as popular as a few weeks since saw him contemned; gave new matter to feed the phrenzy of applause, by refusing to wear the *blue ribband* when going to address the Assembly. He said, he did not wish for any external mark, *by which he might be distinguished from other citizens*, as he considered himself as the same with the people, and the first functionary of the State. His rejection of this ornament has been of use to his cause; when the minds of men are in a state of fermentation, objects, trifling in themselves, are frequently important in their consequences.

Monsieur, the King's brother, was, on the 25th of August, appointed regent of France, with the unanimous consent of all the emigrants, who celebrated, on that day, the feast of St Louis at Coblenz. They all swore, at the same time, to shed the last drop of their blood in the cause of the King.

The University of Paris have sent a requisition to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, for the purpose of obtaining a copy of the statutes and regulations upon which those learned seminaries are founded and conducted.

WAR IN INDIA.

The English army under the command of the Governor General, Earl Cornwallis, in the course of the month of February, effected the passage of the Ghauts.—These are high mountains which surround the Mysore kingdom, the dominions of Tippoo Sultan.—His Lordship advanced with his whole army, about 27,000 men, towards the fortress of Bangalore, a very strong, extensive, and well supplied post, with a numerous garrison, where he encamped on the 5th of March. Tippoo followed him with an immense army, and took post about six miles distant, but only sent out some small bodies of horse to harass the march of the English. On the 7th of March, his Lordship made an assault on the Pettah or outworks of the fortress, which he carried with little loss.—A regular siege was begun against the fort. But Tippoo shewing no inclination to risk a general engagement to save this post, his Lordship, finding the army and followers consumed more forage and provision than he expected, resolved to storm.

The following particulars of this important enterprise are too interesting to be omitted.

On the 17th March the enemy finally drew off his line, which had for some time kept up a cannonade at a great distance, and moved parallel to the first line of Lord Cornwallis's army, consisting of the left wing and the reserve; but not without suffering considerably from an eighteen pounder which open-

ed on part of his line; that came within its range as he was drawing off.

The siege was carried on with unceasing vigour, till the 21st, when, about eight in the morning, it was observed that the enemy were approaching. Our lines immediately turned out; but it was soon found that he had drawn up his line on the opposite side of the fort. Our first line remained drawn up, to prevent any attack on our baggage: and the second under command of Col. Stuart, moved off to attack the enemy: but before he could arrive within cannon-shot, their whole army retreated before him.

Every measure had been taken that military genius and experience could suggest, to secure secrecy as well as strength to the enterprise.—The storm began at eleven at night, under command of Lieut. Col. Maxwell.

The forlorn hope consisted of thirty grenadiers, commanded by Lieutenants Evans and Duncan. All the European grenadiers were of the storm. The flank-companies advanced according to seniority; the 36th, 72d, and 76th regiments, with two battalions of sepoys, to clear the covered way. General Meadows led the grenadiers, and mounted the breach at their head.

Nothing could exceed the grandeur of the spectacle. The splendour of the moon, the glare of the blue lights from the ramparts of the enemy, and the thousand lightning-flashes from all the guns, dazzled the eye with a new

day ; while the constant peals of musquetry, and roar of the cannon, rendered the scene truly awful.

It was found necessary to escalate in two places, where small trenches had been dug by the enemy. A passage over one of these, where only one man could go, was fortunately discovered by some of the 36th regiment. Many passed by this, and gained the works, while the escalate was effected by the flank companies, commanded by Major Skelly, with equal spirit and success.

Nothing could resist or escape the impetuosity of the troops :—they rushed along the ramparts, where heaps lay dead and dying, and met near the opposite gate. Here the crowd, attempting in vain to escape through what they could not defend, met their promiscuous fate in multitudes. Many fell on the bayonet, many by the bullet, and many were burnt by their cloaths catching fire, and blown up by the explosion of their own cartridge-boxes.

The slaughter was inevitably great—more than 1000, it is apprehended, though its duration was short ; and it was as pleasing to humanity, next day, to see the soldiers binding up the wounds they had inflicted, and giving provisions and assistance to their prisoners, as it is distressing to contemplate the necessary calamities of war.

Some of the enemy appeared on the outside of the fort, but attempted nothing, and were soon dispersed by a few shot. The fire of the fort was

very heavy, but ill directed ; and all the resistance on the ramparts being so rapidly overpowered, our loss happily was small.

The fort is nearly oval, with two gates covered by the outworks, but without a draw-bridge, one to the south-west, called the Seringapatam-gate—the other, Ooscottah, to the eastward. It appears to be irregularly built, about a mile and three quarters in circumference, with small round bastions at the distance of 50 or 60 yards, incapable of containing more than three guns each.

Six lofty cavaliers in different parts, mounting each eight or ten guns, command the fort and the adjacent country ; the rampart is sufficiently broad to admit of the heaviest guns being fired from the curtains ; and the ditch, except in two places where it is covered by outworks, is deep and broad, but with hardly any water in it—The faussebraye wide, and the covert way very judiciously constructed ; the glacis, as is usual in Indian forts, too steep.

More than 100 pieces of cannon are taken, with great quantities of ammunition and military stores ; abundance of grain was found in the fort : and though no public treasure has yet been discovered, a vast variety of private property, in the hour of plunder, amply compensated to the soldiers the danger of the storm.

All accounts concur in admiring the extent and magnificence of the palace, and the

plantations and disposition of its garden: exact architecture or elegance could not be hoped for, but much more of both was found than could have been expected. In the extensive chambers of the palace, a rich profusion of carpets, hangings, and silks, gilded and fluted pillars, and walls and ceilings painted and burnished; and in the garden, walks and pieces of water well disposed and planted, with lofty and shady avenues, and fruit and flowers in abundance. But a still more important proof of the rapid strides the former master of Bangalore was making in useful improvements, was the state of the foundery for cannon and iron-works which he carried on there. One very remarkable machine for boring muskets was found; it is worked by bullocks, and such is its force and contrivance as to bore fifty at a time. The venerable Killedar, Bahauder Khan, fell in the storm of the ramparts.

To the honourable offer made by Lord Cornwallis, of sending his body to Tippoos, the Sultan returned a very thankful answer, but declined it; expressing his high sense of the offer, but observing, as the Killedar had fallen in battle as a soldier, he thought he could not have a nobler grave. The second in command also fell; and Kistna Row, Tippoos's favourite Buchhee, is taken prisoner.

From the circumstance of part of Lord Cornwallis's dispatches to the Council of Madras hav-

ing been intercepted by the enemy, no particular account of the loss in these actions has been received.—But the following officers are mentioned in private letters to have fallen:

Lieut. Col. Joseph Moorhouse and Capt. John Slipper, both of the Company's artillery.—Capt. Delany, 36th regiment—Capt. Terrot, 52d regiment—Lieut. Welwood, Company's cavalry—Colonel Floyd and Capt. Markham, wounded.

After taking possession of Bangalore, the following appeared in the General Army Orders.

Camp at Bangalore, March 22.

1791.

G. A. O.

“Lord Cornwallis feels the most sensible gratification in congratulating the officers and soldiers of the army on the honourable issue of the fatigues and dangers which they underwent during the late arduous siege.

“Their alacrity and firmness in the execution of their various duties has perhaps never been exceeded; and he shall not only think it incumbent upon him to represent their meritorious conduct in the strongest colours, but he shall ever remember it with the sincerest sentiments of esteem and admiration.

“The judicious arrangements which were made by Colonel Duff in the artillery department, and his exertions, and those of the other officers and the soldiers of that corps in general, in the service of the batteries, are entitled to his

Lordship's highest approbation; to which he desires to add, that he thinks himself much obliged to Lieutenant Colonel Giel for the able manner in which he directed the fire during the day of the 21st.

' Lord Cornwallis is so well acquainted with the ardour that pervades the whole army, that he would have been happy if it had been practicable to have allowed every corps to have participated in the glory of the enterprize of last night; but it must be obvious to all, that in forming a disposition for the assault, a certain portion of the troops could only be employed.

' The conduct of all the regiments which happened in their tour to be upon duty that evening, did credit, in every respect, to their spirit and discipline; but his Lordship desires to offer the tribute of his particular and warmest praise to the European grenadiers and light infantry of the army, and to the 36th, 72d, and 76th regiments, who led the attack, and carried the fortress, and who, by their behaviour on that occasion, furnished a conspicuous proof, that disciplined valour in soldiers, when directed by zeal and capacity in officers, is irresistible.

' The activity and good conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell, in the command of the Pettah for several days previous to the assault of the fort, was, in every respect, highly commendable; but his Lordship desires that he will accept of his particular thanks for the

judicious arrangements which he made for the assault which was committed to his direction, and for the gallantry which he displayed in the execution of them.

' He likewise returns his warmest acknowledgments to Major Skelly, who undertook the command of the corps that commenced the attack of the breach, and who, by animating them by his own example, contributed essentially to our important success.

' Lieutenant Colonel Stuart may be assured that Lord Cornwallis will ever retain the most grateful remembrance of the valuable and steady support which that officer affords him, by his military experience and constant exertions to promote the public service; and although his Lordship is unwilling to offend General Meadows's delicacy, by attempting to express his full sense of the able and friendly assistance which he uniformly experiences from him, he cannot avoid declaring, that it has made an impression on his mind that can never be effaced."

The following letters passed betwixt Lord Cornwallis and Tippoo Sultan:

From Tippoo Sultan.

Received March 27. 1791.

"Some time ago your Lordship desired that several matters should be replied to in writing, and sent to you. I embrace this opportunity of writing, that in matters of great importance the secrets of the heart cannot be known but by the verbal communication of a per-

son of consequence, nor can affairs be adjusted. Therefore, if your Lordship pleases, I will nominate a person of confidence; and, vesting him with full authority, will send him to your presence, in order that by personal conversation our ancient friendship may gain daily strength. Your Lordship must consider me desirous of your friendship, and must act in a manner that peace may take place between us, the disagreements existing be removed, and the happiness and quiet of mankind be established."

Dated 22^d Rubany Saul Suty 1218 Mahomed, or the 20th Rejeb 1205 Hejery, 27th March 1791.

To Tippoo Sultan.

Written March 27. 1791.

"I have received and have understood the contents of your letter (recapitulate that received the 27th of March 1791).

"The moderation which always marks the character of the British Government, and my own personal disposition and feelings, unite in making me wish most earnestly for the restoration of the blessings of peace, as soon as a just reparation can be obtained for the injuries and losses that the Company and its Allies have suffered.

"If the two Circars alone were engaged in the present war, I should not object to receive the person of confidence whom you desire to send to me, and I should listen as favourably to

your propositions as the duty of my station would admit; but so direct and expeditious a mode of negotiation is not now in my power: for when I found that by your disregard to all my conciliatory offers, I must necessarily be forced to engage in a war, I entered into the most solemn treaties with Nizam Ally Khan and with the Peshwa, declaring, that we would assist each other, and that no one of the Powers would listen separately to any advances from the enemy, without submitting the terms proposed to the general consideration and approbation of the different parties of the confederacy.

"I cannot, therefore, consistent with honour and good faith, receive, in the first instance, a person of confidence from you, for the purpose of adjusting the separate terms of peace between you and the Company; but if you would think proper to transmit to me, in writing, the propositions that you are willing to make, as a foundation upon which negotiations may be opened, for the restoration of peace and friendship between the Company, the Nizam, and the Peshwa on one side, and your Circar on the other, I shall, on my part, give them the most serious consideration, and, after communication with the other members of the confederacy, I shall convey to you our joint sentiments upon them."

(Signed) Cornwallis.

[On account of the importance of the intelligence from France and India, it was found necessary to give an additional half sheet, which will be delivered with next number.]

The Peace betwixt the Czarina and the Porte was finally concluded at Galacz on the 11th of August, on the terms proposed by the British and Prussian mediators.

The Plague, according to the latest accounts, rages with uncommon fury at Grand Cairo, in Egypt. During one fortnight about 1600 persons had perished each day; and great apprehensions were entertained by the inhabitants that this public calamity would rather encrease than diminish, till the fall of the Nile, when it gradually subsides.

Constantinople had also experienced its fatal effects; for nearly one month upwards of 500 a-day having died. The narrowness of the streets, by which the ingress and egress of carriages have always been precluded, renders the malady much more infectious and alarming.

It is, however, a curious fact related by travellers, that the plague is seldom equally destructive to the various nations who reside in this city. Of the Turks, Jews, Armenians, and Greeks, who form the principal inhabitants, the carnage has been chiefly confined to the first description of people, while few, in comparison of the others, have fallen victims to its fury.

The remedies applied by an inhabitant of the shores of the Euxine Sea, who some years ago cured 700 persons of the plague, have been administered in vain to the afflicted.

It may appear extraordinary, that the *burial ground* around Constantinople extends now in every direction *fourteen miles*; so great for some years have been the ravages committed on the human species.

Sir Robert Ainslie, and all the Foreign Ambassadors, reside on the opposite side of the Bosphorus, where the dreadful effects of the malady have not been felt. No intercourse whatever is held with the neighbouring families, the impending danger impelling every Ambassador to provide for his own safety.

It continues to rage with equal violence at Adrianople; and the troops who have arrived from that part of the army appointed to oppose the progress of the Russians, have suffered severely, 5000 having been buried in the course of ten days.

Smyrna has likewise been visited by this irresistible disorder; and the natives have been obliged to sustain a temporary stagnation of commerce with foreign powers.

The Nile has risen higher this year than known for ages past. It had early in the month of July risen 19 cubits.

The Pachas of Diarbeck, Damas, Acre, and Aleppo, have all renounced their allegiance to the Grand Signior. The Pacha of Damas has plundered the caravan going to Mecca, and dispersed all the pilgrims; and the Pacha of Acre has expelled the French merchants, notwithstanding the firman which they received from the Sublime Porte.

The Franciscan friars have also been driven out of his government, and their convent is entirely demolished.

On the 10th of August the election of Deputies to the Polish Diet, according to the new form, commenced at Warsaw, and in all the other cities of the kingdom.

On the 23d of August, the Emperor of Germany, with his eldest son, and the King of Prussia, with his eldest son, arrived at the Palace of the Elector of Saxony at Dresden; and on the 25th Mr Fawcener, the English Envoy, arrived also at Dresden from Petersburg and Warsaw.

On the same day arrived also at Dresden, the Count d'Artois, the Marquis de Bouille with his son, Mons. de Calonne, and the Prince of Nassau.

The business which occasioned this meeting was the affairs of France, and the following Convention between the Emperor and the King of Prussia was the result of the conference.

“ His Majesty the Emperor, and his Majesty the King of Prussia, having heard the wishes and representation of Monsieur, the French King's brother, and the Count d'Artois, do jointly declare, that they look upon the actual situation of his Majesty the King of France as an object of common concern to all the Sovereigns of Europe. They hope that this concern will, doubtless, be acknowledged by all the powers, from whom *assistance is required*; and that, in consequence,

they will not refuse employing, in conjunction with their said Majesties, the most efficacious means, relative to their forces, in order to enable the King of France to consolidate, in the most perfect liberty, the basis of a monarchical government, suitable both to the rights of Sovereigns, and the welfare of the French nation.—Then, and in this case, their said Majesties the Emperor and the King of Prussia are determined to act, speedily, with mutual concord, and with necessary forces, to obtain the proposed end in common. Mean while they will give to their troops necessary orders, that they may be ready for putting themselves in a state of activity.”

Pilnitz, Aug. 27. 1791.

On the 28th the illustrious visitors parted—the Emperor and Archduke set out for Prague—the King of Prussia and Prince Royal for Potsdam,—and the Count d'Artois with his suite for Coblenz.—During their stay at Dresden, the Elector of Saxony gave a grand masked ball, an opera, supper, and fireworks, to the royal personages and the principal nobility.

The following is part of a letter from the Czarina to the King of Sweden: “ Your Majesty may rest assured, that my sentiments agree with yours respecting the unfortunate Louis XVI. and that I sincerely lament his fate as well as your Majesty. I hope that our lamentations will not be fruitless, and that we shall manifest the lively interest which we feel for

him. The resolution which you have made in his favour is worthy of your courage and of your magnanimity, and worthy of the successor of the great Gustavus. For the sake of peace, I have made some important sacrifices; and I should be willing to make much greater, in bringing effectually to bear your glorious undertaking. I shall consider the day on which I hear that Louis has recovered his authority and his prerogatives, and has forgiven his enemies, as the happiest of my life."

The Empress of Russia has issued orders for disbanding the major part of her Asiatic forces, and for sending them home. Each man, exclusive of his pay, is to have a certain quantity of agricultural implements, by which means it is hoped that the at present barren deserts of Siberia will be cultivated on the return of the peasantry, who have been in some degree civilized, by visiting the more western and southern climes.

Their Imperial Majesties dined on the 31st of August at Liebau, a short distance from Prague; and afterwards made their entry, being attended by 89 state-coaches, 550 horses, and 800 servants and officers in gala-liveries, where he was crowned King of Bohemia.

His Imperial Majesty has re-established the government of the Austrian low countries, on the same footing as it was conducted in the time of his mother, the Empress Maria Theresa.

The King of Prussia has concluded a commercial treaty between Prussia and the United States of America, and M. Paletke, a respectable merchant at Philadelphia, is appointed his Majesty's Consul General. It is said that he is to propose a treaty of alliance between the two countries, so that the Prussian manufactures may be imported into America under great advantages.

The following was proclaimed at Madrid, on Saturday the 27th ult. by the Supreme Council of War, in all the squares and public places of that capital:

Declaration of War by the King of Spain against the Emperor of Morocco.

The good harmony in which the King, my father, of glorious memory, lived with the late King of Morocco, Muley Mohamet, during his reign, is notorious, more especially since 1780, when that Monarch sent an Ambassador to Madrid, to confirm and renew the peace which had been broken in 1774, without any fault on the part of Spain.

It is equally notorious, that I myself preserved the same harmony with that Prince until his death; nor is it less public, that his successor, Muley Eliazit, at his advancement to the throne, testified his desire to sign a treaty of peace with me, &c.

After the above preamble, the following are assigned as the specific causes of the war:

1. The establishments of troops as the advanced posts

in the neighbourhood of Ceuta, contrary to custom.

2. The prohibition to import corn from Arbeyda.

3. An insinuation to a Spanish merchant to leave Africa, notwithstanding the services done by him to the King of Morocco, in preventing the Arabs from pillaging one of his seaports, by furnishing him with artillery, ammunition, &c.

4. Killing his father's Minister with his own hand, on account of his supposed attachment to Spain; nailing his head to the convent of Missionaries established at Mequinez, and one of his hands to the Spanish Consul's house at Tangier.

5. The purchasing of ammunition, provisions, &c. to carry on a war against Spain.

6. Ordering the Spanish missionaries to leave the territories belonging to the King of Morocco.

In consequence of these violations of the law of nations, and in consideration of no other means being left in behalf of my own dignity and that of my crown, but to revenge these outrages by force of arms, I have resolved to make this declaration public; and I hereby accordingly declare war against that Monarch, his states, and his subjects; and I shall immediately expedite orders for my subjects to break off all communication with them whatever, and also to attack them both by land and by sea.

Signed by the King's own hand, at the Palace, this 19th day of August 1791.

Counter Declaration of Muley Alcir, Emperor of Morocco.

I make known to all my vassals in general, that from this day, I declare war by sea and land against the Christian Spaniards as enemies, who are hurtful to our holy law: my intention being in the mean time to get possession of the place of Medina, which they call Ceuta, which they have usurped from my dominions. I order all my faithful subjects to take up arms, and to exert their valorous efforts against our enemies. I grant to all those who undertake this enterprise, every thing they find in the place, except the artillery and war-stores, which I reserve for my own service.

I command likewise, and order a Ramazan, to the end that our great Prophet, who is revered in his vast and incomparable temple of Mecca, may afford his protection to all those who take up arms against the Christians our enemies. Signed the year of the Egra 1170, the third day of the moon of Ramzan, &c.

MULEY ALCIR.

The Comte de Lafoy, Commandant of Catalonia, signified to the Consul of France residing at Barcelona, that he must immediately quit Spain. A detachment of grenadiers conducted him to the French frontiers. This French patriot was accused of having spoken too freely of the Spanish government; and at the same time too advantageously of the French revolution.

The inhabitants of Spain have been reduced, within the space of a few centuries, from 20 to 7,000,000. Nothing can be a greater proof of the wretchedness of its government. By the fineness of its climate, and the advantages of its situation, could it enjoy the blessings of science and liberty, it would become one of the most enviable spots in the universe.

The Court of Spain, according to report, have it in contemplation to establish a colony at Trinidad, which is admired as an earthly paradise, containing all the luxuries and conveniences of life. It is situated in the Atlantic, or American Ocean, separated from the province of New Andalusia in Terra Firma, by a narrow strait, called Bocca de Drago. In the year 1498, it was discovered by Columbus; in 1598, taken by Sir Walter Raleigh; in 1676, taken by the French, who extorted from the inhabitants 89,000 pieces of eight, to save their houses. It has for more than a century remained in the possession of the Spaniards.

Lisbon, August 13. All foreigners here, who have no other residence than inns, have been summoned before the Corregidor, who has interrogated them respecting their names, their qualities, their country, and their business. Verbal processes have been drawn up in consequence of the information taken, and orders have been given to those persons, whose business or intentions were suspected, to depart the kingdom as soon as possible. We presume that a

similar procedure has taken place in all the towns of Portugal.

By a letter from Hamburg, dated 30th August, we are informed, that the turbulent spirit of the times had seized the inhabitants of that city. The journeymen trades people were insisting for a rise of wages, which being resisted, they became so tumultuous and disorderly, that the exertions of the civil power were totally unable to quell them, and therefore the military were obliged to be called out and to fire upon them, in consequence of which one man was killed and several wounded. The citizens were under arms for three days and nights, during which time every kind of business was suspended, and nothing but riot and confusion prevailed. When the accounts came away, peace and quietness were restored, and people were resuming their ordinary employment. We are happy to add, that the damage done is inconsiderable, as the watchful attention of the citizens and military prevented any very flagrant acts of violence and outrage.

It is a fact worthy of notice, that no rum or spirits of any kind were used on board the ship *Brothers*, Capt. Josiah, in his late voyage from Philadelphia to Canton. His men were uncommonly healthy, and not a life was lost between his leaving the Delaware and his return to it. The constant drink of his sailors was spruce beer. Twenty years ago, it was thought as Utopian to think of navigating a vessel

without a daily allowance of rum to sailors, as it is now to think of cultivating rice or sugar without slaves.

The total loss of our grand army in India, from the date of its march into Tippoo's country until the 30th of April, did not exceed 80 killed and about 200 wounded.

One poor fellow had a most remarkable escape.—He was struck with such violence by a musket-ball, a little above the groin, that it fractured into a thousand pieces a biscuit which he had fortunately put in his waistcoat pocket;—he prays for the baker who made it—and though he lost a tooth in the morning attempting to break it, he saved his life by pocketing the obdurate cause—he recommends it to his comrades (when biscuits are attainable) never to go to battle without being well lined with such a noble defence, and justly claims the honour of being the first in discovering its good effects as external armour. Being a little swelled in the part, he applied the broken pieces of the same biscuit, soaked as a poultice; so that in the present instance we are warranted in saying, that bread is not only the staff, but also the shield of life.

A private letter from India relates the following pleasing incident, which occurred to Major Gowdie, shortly after he entered Bangalore, with the other assailants. Last war he had been Tippoo's prisoner, and was confined with many

other gentlemen in Bangalore, where they suffered every species of insult, hardships, and barbarity. A humane and beneficent butcher, whose business led him often to their prison, saw and felt for their sufferings; they had been stripped of their cloaths, and robbed of their money, before they were confined. It would have cost the butcher his ears, perhaps his life, had he discovered any symptoms of pity for the prisoners before his countrymen. They were allowed only one seer of rice, and a pice, or half-penny per day, for their subsistence; but the butcher contrived to relieve their necessities; on opening the sheep's heads, which they frequently bought from him as food, they were astonished to find pagodas in the brains. Upon passing the yard of their prison, he often gave them abusive language, and threw balls of dirt at them, to testify his hatred and contempt; but upon breaking the balls, they always found they contained a supply of money for their relief, and this he did frequently for a long series of time. Major Gowdie had not long entered the breach, when he saw and recollected his friend the butcher; he ran with eagerness to embrace him, saved him from the carnage, and led him to a place of safety.—The transports of the two generous spirits at their meeting, gave the most pleasing sensations to all who beheld them; it softened the rage of the soldiers, and made the thirst of

blood give way to the emotions of humanity.

The Nabob of Oude has generously and spontaneously supplied Government with a reinforcement of 200 elephants. They proceeded from Lucknow under the charge of Capt. Williamson, on their way over land to Madras.

By the last advices from Bombay, the inhabitants had suffered considerably from the dryness of the season. Water was so exceedingly scarce, and rice so high in price, that it was necessary to open a subscription for the relief of the poor, and about three lacks of rupees had been collected.

It appears from a fair and certain statement of the Oriental traffic, that Great Britain possesses upwards of eighty parts out of a hundred of the tonnage of shipping employed in the commerce from Europe and the rest of the globe to Asia.

At a late public dinner at Boston in America, the blessing was asked by the Rev. Dr Parker, an Episcopalian, and thanks returned by Dr Carroll, a Roman Catholic Bishop. It must give pleasure to every one to see this friendly intercourse between persons who profess different opinions in religion.

Among the few curiosities imported from Botany Bay is a leaf of very uncommon properties. The most extraordinary is, that, even without being pulverised, it goes off, on the application of a match, with an explosion some what similar to gunpowder; and the air is afterwards agreeably perfumed.

DOMESTIC.

On the 3d. of September, at five in the morning, the King and Queen, and four of the Princesses, set off from Windsor for Weymouth, for the benefit of sea-bathing.

Wednesday morning the 17th ult. about six o'clock, a person whose name is Wetton, went to Buckingham House, and insisted on being admitted to the Queen's apartments. The servant at first treated him with contempt; but he insisted in such a boisterous manner on having his first demand complied with, that they thought proper to take him into custody. It appeared that the man is insane. He said he was a shoemaker by trade, had served twenty years in the Blues, from which he was discharged about five years ago: that he lately came to London to see a relation of his, and was much embarrassed for want of money. He was sent to the hospital as a lunatic. He is 46 years old.

Two of the Birmingham rioters, John Green and Francis Rodney, were executed at that place on the 8th inst. and behaved very penitent. Fisher received his Majesty's free pardon, and Hammond was respited during pleasure.

A duel took place lately at Limerick, in Ireland, between Counsellor O'Callaghan and Mr Macnamara, a young attorney, in consequence of some reflections thrown by the former on the latter, respecting exorbitant costs, in which the attorney received a wound in his neck, of which he died three days after.

On the 14th inst. at ten o'clock at night, a fire broke out near Cherry-Garden Stairs, Rotherhithe, London, which from the tide being low, and little water to be had, burnt furiously for a considerable time. It began at a ship-chandler's, but how is not known—several barrels of tar were on fire before it was discovered. A number of engines attended, both on the river and on the shore; but from the difficulty of finding water for the latter, and the impossibility of bringing the former near enough, it was six or seven o'clock in the morning before the violence of the flames were got under, by which time about fifty houses were burnt down, many of them warehouses, containing property to a very considerable amount. A great number of poor families have been burnt out, and their little all destroyed; and what increases the calamity, few of them are insured.

A shocking accident happened on the 16th ult. at Booterstown, near Dublin.—A young lady went on a visit to an acquaintance, who lodged there for the benefit of sea-bathing, and was induced to go into the water. Never having gone into it before, she was very much agitated, and two ladies who accompanied her very imprudently took advantage of her fright, and threw her down, with an intention of

ducking her. In less than one minute she was suffocated, and completely deprived of life. The terror of her companions may be easily imagined on so dreadful a catastrophe.—A coroner's inquest was held on the body, and brought in a verdict of accidental death.

The foundation-stone of a theatre, upon a new and elegant plan, was a few days since laid at Belfast. It will be very large, and said to be so admirably contrived as to excel every thing of the kind in Britain.

There is now living in Brechin, a person aged about 78 years, perhaps the greatest natural genius in the kingdom; who, though he can neither read nor write, can with the greatest facility and exactness answer any question either arithmetical or algebraical; the truth of which is attested by several persons eminent for their skill in these sciences. In a country where learning and genius are so much patronised, it is a pity a person of the above description should remain in the utmost obscurity and despondency.

At the Circuit Court of Justiciary held at Glasgow on the 22d inst. George Davidson, late writer in Edinburgh, for forging two bills on Mr Honyman, advocate, and James Plunket, soldier, for street robbery, were both found guilty, and sentenced to be executed on the 26th of October next.

SHORT CHRONICLE

OF EVENTS.

[Oct. 19. 1791.]

WAR IN INDIA.

IN the former numbers of this Chronicle we have given a relation of the different successes of the British arms against Tip-poo Sultan.—The following letter from Earl Cornwallis, the Governor General, who commands the army in person, to the Directors of the India Company, gives a general view of affairs in that country : from which it appears, that the measures to be pursued are more highly interesting to Great Britain, than any that have been undertaken against this formidable enemy.

‘ Honourable Sirs,

‘ I shall not trouble your honourable Court with an explanation of the nature of the incessant exertions, both of body and mind, which are required by the various duties of my present situation ; nor should I now have alluded to them, but that I am under the indispensable necessity of stating them, as the cause of my being obliged, on this occasion, instead of entering into a detail of particulars, to limit myself to a con-

cise and general account of our late operations, and of my future intentions.

‘ Our preparations for the campaign having been completed at Madras, the army marched from Velhout on the 5th of February ; and having reached Vellore on the 11th, we halted there two days, for the purpose of drawing from thence a supply to my stock of provisions, and an addition that had been prepared to the battering train, and of receiving some stores and recovered men from Arnee.

‘ I had, previous to my arrival at Vellore, employed every means in my power to obtain accurate descriptions of the different passes that lead into the Mysore country : and having seen sufficient grounds to be confident that the Moogly pass could easily be rendered practicable, I turned off to the right at Vellore, and not only ascended the pass without much difficulty, but, by having taken a route that Tippoo does not seem to have expected, I was also lucky enough to be able to advance a considerable

distance into his country, before it was possible for him to give us the least obstruction.

‘ The forts of Colar and Ouscottah lay in our route to Bangalore, and surrendered to us without resistance; but as neither of them were in a tenable condition, nor at that time of any value to us, I left them unoccupied, after disarming and dismissing their small garrisons.

‘ I arrived before Bangalore on the 5th of March; and on the 6th the engineers were employed in reconnoitring the place both in the morning and evening; on their latter excursion Lieut. Col. Floyd, who escorted them with the whole cavalry, discovered the rear of Tippoo’s line of march, apparently in great confusion, and unfortunately suffered himself to be tempted, by the flattering prospect of striking an important blow, to deviate from the orders he had received from me, and to attack the enemy. His success at first was great, but the length and ardour of the pursuit threw his squadrons into great confusion. In this state they were charged by Tippoo’s cavalry, and, being out of the reach of all support, they were obliged to retire with great precipitation, and with the loss of above 200 men and near 300 horses. Lieut. Col. Floyd received a very severe wound in the face, from which, however, I have the pleasure to add that he is now perfectly recovered.

‘ The ill success of our examination, the fear of losing time, and many other circum-

stances, of which the hopes of obtaining a supply of forage was not the least, induced me to determine immediately to attack the fort from the Pettah side. The Pettah was accordingly assaulted and carried on the morning of the 7th; and the siege of the fort, which was rendered singularly arduous, not only by the scarcity of forage, and strength of its works and garrison, but also by the presence of Tippoo and his whole army, was happily terminated by an assault on the night of the 21st, in which the Killidar, and a great number of his garrison, were put to the sword; and our loss, in proportion to the nature of the enterprise, was inconsiderable. I cannot, however, help expressing, on this occasion, my sincere regret for the death of that brave and valuable officer Lieut. Col. Moorhouse, who was killed at the assault of the Pettah, on the 7th of March.

‘ I have not yet been able to obtain correct lists of the ordnance, or of the different articles that were found in the magazines of the place; and I can therefore only say in general, that there were upwards of 100 serviceable pieces of ordnance, near 50 of which were brass, a large quantity of grain, and an immense depôt of military stores.

‘ Although Tippoo approached our position, and even cannonaded the camp both on the 7th and 17th, yet on these occasions, and all others during the siege, he took his measures with so much caution as to put it effect-

ually out of my power to force him to risk an action; and on the night of the assault he retired, in great haste, from the south side of the fortress, where he was then posted, immediately upon his being acquainted with its fall. After giving some repairs to the breaches, making a number of necessary arrangements, and leaving the train of heavy artillery to be refitted during my absence, I moved from Bangalore on the 28th, with the design of securing a safe and speedy junction with a large body of cavalry that the Nizam had promised to send me, and receiving a reinforcement of troops and a supply of provisions and stores, which I had some time before ordered to be in readiness to join me, by the way of Amboor, from the Carnatic, considering those as necessary preliminary measures for enabling me to proceed to the attack of Seringapatam; and I, at the same time, communicated my intentions to General Abercromby, and directed him to use every exertion in his power, that might be consistent with the safety of the corps under his command, to prepare himself in the manner that I prescribed, to give me effectual assistance when I should reach the enemy's capital.

Tippoo having made a movement to the westward on the same day that I marched from the neighbourhood of Bangalore, I fell in with his rear at the distance of about 8 or 9 miles from that place; but, from the want of a sufficient

body of cavalry, it was found impracticable, after a pursuit of considerable length, either to bring him to action, or to gain any advantage over him, except that of taking one brass gun, which, owing to its carriage breaking down, he was obliged to leave upon the road.

My first object being to form a junction with the Nizam's cavalry, I made such movements, or took such positions, as I knew would effectually prevent Tippoo from intercepting them, or even from disturbing their march; but, although I was at great pains to point out the safety of the march to Rajah Teigewunt, and to encourage him to proceed, the effects of my recommendations and requests were but slow; and, after waste of time, which at this late season of the year was invaluable, and which almost exhausted my patience, the junction was not made till the 13th inst.

It is not easy to ascertain the number of the corps with precision, but I suppose it to amount to 15 or 16,000 horse; and though they are extremely defective in almost every point of military discipline; yet, as the men are in general well mounted, and the chiefs have given me the strongest assurances of their disposition to do every thing in their power to promote the success of our operations, I am in great hopes that we shall derive material advantage from their assistance.

This junction being accomplished, I marched on to effect my next object without loss of

time ; and being arrived at my present camp on the 18th, and ordered the most expeditious measures to be taken for transporting the stores from the head of the pass, I shall commence my march again to the westward on the 22d ; and, after calling at Bangalore for the heavy artillery, I trust that I shall find it practicable to reach Seringapatam before the 12th of next month.

‘ No useful purpose could be promoted by my enumerating the difficulties which I have already encountered in carrying on the operations of the campaign ; and it would be equally unprofitable to enlarge at present upon the obstacles which I foresee to our future progress ; they are, however, of so weighty a nature, that under different circumstances I should undoubtedly act with more caution, and defer the attempt upon the enemy’s capital till after the ensuing rains ; but, acquainted as I am with the unsettled situation of political affairs in Europe, and knowing that a procrastinated war would occasion almost certain ruin to our finances, I consider it as a duty which I owe to my station and to my country, to disregard the hazard to which my own military reputation may be exposed, and to prosecute, with every species of precaution that my judgment or experience can suggest, the plan which is most likely to bring the war to an early decision.

‘ I have, at the same time, been the more encouraged to persevere in the execution of

my original intentions, as both the Nizam and Mahrattas have of late shewn an uncommon alacrity in fulfilling their engagements, which, by the smallest appearance of backwardness on our part, would be immediately cooled, and which, I trust, will, in addition to our own efforts, essentially contribute to counteract many of the disadvantages which the difficulty of the march, the risk of scarcity of provisions and forage, and the approach of the rainy season, present against the undertaking ; and if those obstacles can be overcome, the capture of Seringapatam will probably, in its consequences, furnish an ample reward for our labours.

‘ A few days after our success at Bangalore, Tippoo repeated his propositions to open a negotiation for terminating our differences ; but whether with a sincere desire to obtain peace, or with the insidious hopes of exciting jealousies in our allies, by inducing me to listen to his advances, is not certain. ‘ The line for my conduct, however, was clear ; and, conformable to our treaties, I declined, in civil and moderate terms, to receive a person of confidence on his part, to discuss the separate interests of the Company ; but informed him, that if he should think proper to make propositions in writing for a general accommodation with all the members of the confederacy, I should, after communicating with the other powers, transmit our joint sentiments upon them.

‘ I shall refer you entirely at present to the accounts that you will receive from the different governments of the details of their respective business; and shall only add, that the personal attention that I have experienced from the members of the Supreme Board, and the zeal which they have manifested since I left Calcutta, in promoting the public good, have given me very particular satisfaction.

‘ The Swallow packet will remain in readiness to be dispatched in August, or sooner if it should be thought expedient; and I shall, by that opportunity, have the honour of writing fully to you on several of those subjects on which you must no doubt be anxious to receive minute information. I cannot, however, conclude this letter, without bearing most ample testimony to the zeal and alacrity which have been uniformly manifested by his Majesty’s and the Company’s troops, in the performance of the various duties of fatigue and danger in the course of this campaign, and assuring you that they are entitled to the most distinguished marks of your approbation.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CORNWALLIS.”

*Camp at Venkettigerry, }
April 21. 1791. }*

In another letter from Lord Cornwallis to Lord Grenville, Secretary of State, his Lordship says:

“ You will have the satisfaction to observe; not only that our

success has already been considerable, but that we have a reasonable prospect of humbling still further a prince of very uncommon ability, and of boundless ambition, who had acquired a degree of power, in extent of territory, in wealth, and in forces, that threatened the Company’s possessions in the Carnatick, and those of all his neighbours, with imminent danger.

‘ Our success at Bangalore has tended to establish, in the general opinion of the natives, the superiority of the British arms: and it has, in particular, made such an impression upon the minds of our allies, as will contribute to induce them to use vigorous exertions in prosecuting the war to an honourable conclusion.

‘ At present we can only look for the speedy accomplishment of that desirable object, by proceeding to attack the enemy’s capital, which I clearly foresee will, from the near approach of the season of the periodical rains, and the danger of a scarcity of provisions and forage for the large body of troops that are to be employed, be attended with many difficulties. But having received the strongest assurances of exertions from the Chiefs of the Nizam’s cavalry, and the Mahrattas, I am encouraged to entertain sanguine hopes that all obstacles will give way to our efforts, and that the enterprise will succeed.”

The fortress of Darwar, a strong and well supplied garrison in Mysore, capitulated to

the British and Mahrattas, after a long siege, on the 3d of April. The garrison marched out with all the treasure, and a great part of the cannon. Colonel Frederick died during the siege. The fortresses of Horregul and Copul also surrendered upon terms.

Tippoo had retaken a fort called Chinabalarum, and put the garrison, which consisted of polygars, to the sword.

A Subadar, and 40 other black officers, who had been prisoners at Copuldroog ever since the fall of General Matthews, lately made their escape, which was as remarkable as it was providential, as they were to have been all massacred on the night of their escape. Having, however, received intelligence of this intended act of barbarity, they came to the desperate resolution of storming the gate of their prison, and selling their lives at as dear a rate as possible; they found a favourable opportunity, and falling upon their guards with irresistible fury, they put them to the sword, and made their way good to Lord Cornwallis's army.

The East India Company have established a settlement in the Pelew Islands, with the consent of the natives, and built a fort, which they have called *Fort Abercrombie*, in honour of the Governor of Bombay. The master of the Endeavour, and fifty men, were left in it, with orders to join in no war, but to do their utmost to reconcile each party, and to take care to be in a state to resent

any insult offered to them, by the enemies of Abba Thulle.

On the 15th of January, a dreadful fire broke out at Manilla, and raged for a few hours with the most destructive violence, laying waste a prodigious number of dwelling houses, godowns, &c. A considerable quantity of Bengal piece goods, which had been landed at Manilla, and were unfold at the time the fire happened, were also destroyed. The amount of the damage sustained by the above fire, is computed to be 120,000l. sterling.

A most singular and calamitous instance of the effects of a sudden inundation, occurred on the 18th June, in the island of Cuba, at a place called the Puentes Grandes, about five miles from the Havannah, and where the King's mills for the manufacture of snuff are situated. At this place there is a river, which runs between two hills, has several houses on its banks, and is much used for bathing by the inhabitants of the city, who, at the time mentioned, were there in considerable numbers. A gentle rain had fallen in the earlier part of the day; but about seven in the evening, such a deluge poured down, that a person who was near the spot, declares that nothing was visible but a huge body of water; this continued falling for near three hours; at the expiration of which, the river, that on the preceding day had been near 50 feet below its banks, overflowed, and inundated the adjacent land, destroying in a

short time the whole of the stupendous mills, and several dwelling-houses. The consternation and terror excited by this sudden visitation, may be more easily imagined than described: near 500 unhappy persons perished in the water, and the damage sustained is computed at upwards of a million of dollars.

To cultivate the spices of the East in the British West-India Islands, has been a design meditated for some years past; and notwithstanding the difficulty of procuring the necessary plants or seeds, on account of the extreme caution and unremitted vigilance of the Dutch, yet some have been already obtained, and no doubt a sufficient quantity of all the species of trees might also be procured from the Moluccas, and the Isles of Borneo, Java, Ceylon, &c. The cinnamon plant already flourishes in Jamaica, and there is no doubt but that nutmeg and cloves would grow as well in the tropical regions of the West as the torrid regions of the East.

The American prints say, that accurate calculations have been made, by which it is ascertained, beyond a doubt, that there are maple-trees in the inhabited part of the United States, more than sufficient, with careful attention, to produce sugar adequate to the consumption of its inhabitants. It is likewise said, that refineries are about being established by some wealthy foreigners, resident in America; by whom agents will be settled in diffe-

rent parts, who will loan out kettles, &c. on reasonable terms to persons unable to purchase. With these agents cash will likewise be lodged to purchase all the raw sugar in their power.

The Indian war, the only public calamity suffered by the Government of America since its establishment, is at an end. Colonel Proctor arrived at Philadelphia on the 10th of June, after having had a conference with the Chiefs of the Six Nations, and brought notice, that a treaty of peace would be signed between them and Colonel Pickering on the 15th.

DOMESTIC.

The marriage ceremony of his Royal Highness the Duke of York with the Princess Royal of Prussia, took place at Berlin on the 29th ult. with the greatest magnificence, and every mark of satisfaction was testified by the Court and all present on the occasion.

On the 4th inst. the Michaelmas Head Court of Freeholders of the County of Ayr was held at Ayr. The business was to consider objections lodged against no less than 108 votes, as being *nominal, fictitious, or confidential*.

Sir Adam Ferguson doubted the competency of the Court to strike any names off the roll, which had stood four months without challenge, and that there was no evidence before the meeting, that these votes were of the above description.

To which it was answered by Mr Boswell of Auchinleck, that from the opinion of the

highest law authority in this kingdom, the *Lord Chancellor Thurlow*, it was now evident, that the fraud, which had been so long practised upon the real parliamentary representation of Scotland, might now be remedied; and from a recent decision of the Court of Session, it was clear that every vote was liable to challenge, even after the lapse of four months from the date of the enrolment. The incompetency of the Court to challenge such votes was denied; and at any rate, as objections had been lodged, and publicly advertised in the newspapers, against such persons as appeared to stand on that roll, on *nominal*, or *feignitious* titles, any gentleman who might think himself aggrieved, had time enough to have lodged answers to these objections, and have come forward to answer any investigation which was then ready to be made. Such gentlemen, therefore, as did not embrace that opportunity must be held as confessed.

The vote being accordingly put, to expunge such votes from the roll as might appear *nominal*, *feignitious*, or *confidential*, or not; it was carried by a majority of *twenty-five to six* to expunge these votes.

Of the above number 106 were immediately struck off the roll.

Thus the great county of Ayr has set a noble example of public spirit and patriotism, in securing the freedom of election,

and destroying the *Parchment Barons* of Scotland.

On the 11th inst. about ten at night, George Davidson for forgery, and James Plunket, late soldier in the 35th regiment, for robbery, who were both condemned at the Circuit at Glasgow Sept. 22. and who were to have suffered on the 26th current, found means to escape out of that prison.

On the 12th inst. William Smith, *alias* John Gun, convicted before the High Court of Justiciary for the crimes of house-breaking and theft, was executed on the platform at the west end of the Luckenbooths, in pursuance of his sentence. Though only 32 years of age, he had been guilty, by his own confession, of many thefts besides those for which he suffered.

On the 5th inst. the ship *Fortune*, Captain M'Leod, which sailed from Greenock some weeks ago, came back into that port in great distress, having lost her fore-mast and received other damage. She was bound for North Carolina, having on board three hundred and fifty passengers, men, women, and children, emigrants from the Island of Skye, &c. The crowded and comfortless situation of the passengers excited compassion; and to see such a number of persons leaving their native country, at this season of the year, to seek an asylum in a foreign land, is distressing to every feeling mind.

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Transf. P. C. D.



FEB 1889







